

"I'll wait version."

Win 95, via Adams, creator of the popular comic strip character

"When [Microsoft] users realize what they're really getting vs. what they've been promised, we'll be there for them with ...

OS/2 Warp."

-Lee Reiswig, general manager, IBM **Personal Software Products**



- Larry Ellison, CEO, Oracle Corp.

"To think that a software release is an historical event is indicative of the fact that some of these people need to get real lives.



- H. P. Newquist, author of "The Brain Makers: Genius, Ego and Greed in the Quest for Machines that Think"

The Newspaper of Information Systems Management August 28, 1995, Vol. 29, No. 35, 176 Pages, \$6/Copy, \$48/Year

COMPUTERWOR

Win 95 off and running

The party's over: When will the migration begin?

By Stuart J. Johnston

Finally!

The wait for Windows 95 to ship is over. although the hype hasn't abated a bit.

Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates was joined on stage by comedian Jay Leno last Thursday inside a gigantic tent on the company's Redmond, Wash., campus.

The gala launch celebrated the commercial availability of the 32-bit operating system, which effectively does away with MS-DOS and finally gives Windows features comparable to the Macintosh.

Retail sales of Windows 95 began at

midnight last Wednesday, with many computer stores staying open late to accommodate potential buyers. Some even held events of their own to build on the frenzy surrounding the system.

Gates said Microsoft has commitments for more than 300 000 Windows 95 units from a laundry list of corporations.

On the list are AT&T Global Information Solutions, Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp., Deloitte & Touche, The Dow Chemical Co., Ford Motor Co., NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., Saturn Corp., Siemens, Inc. and Union Carbide Corp.

Migration, page 123

Microsoft zips lips of help desk partners about calls

By Julia King and Tim Ouellette SEATTLE

Corp. Microsoft says, "Jump!" and its launch partners ask, "How high?"

That much was obvious last week about the relationship between the software giant and the vendor partners looking to make big bucks from the release of the Windows 95 operating system.

Microsoft imposed what

Off peak

Between midnight on Aug. 23 and 9 a.m. Aug. 24. Microsoft said it received 2,500 calls for help from Windows 95 users. That number is much lower than Microsoft expects to handle at peak times. said Deborah

Willingham, vice president of Windows 95 support.

amounted to a gag order on third-party support providers, further tightening its grip on the Windows 95 marketplace.

And the company's long arm of control also kept a headlock on some computer retailers across the country. At a Computer City store in Framingham, Mass., employees were specifically told to keep quiet about Windows 95 sales figures, according to salespeople and Microsoft, page 14

Cabletron gets versatile

More LAN switching for less

By Bob Wallace

Cabletron Systems, Inc. will soon announce Ethernet and Fiber Distributed Data Interface switching modules that analysts said will give users the industry's most versatile LAN switching system.

According to Cabletron documents obtained last week by Computerworld, the company will formally announce the products before the Networld/Interop '95 conference next month. It will ship them by year's end, company officials confirmed.

The devices are based on the internetworking giant's new Fast Packet Switch applicationspecific integrated circuit, or ASIC, which dramatically boosts performance of the MMAC and MMAC-Plus switching hubs.

In addition to giving users that performance boost, the Cabletron switches will support much more LAN switching at lower costs. The new, higher-performance LAN switching modules will cost roughly the same as the older models, a strategy that is a big hit with Cabletron users.

Price down, performance up

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"The ASIC technology is driving the price of interfaces down, which means the cost per port of Ethernet switching is dropping," said Peter Pollack, vice president of new technology and architecture at the information services arm of

cable movie channel Showtime in New York. "That's great news when coupled with the serious boost switch performance."

The vendor also plans to use the ASIC Cabletron, page 16

Will **Win 95**

Sound

OFF!

In Depth

page 97



YES! says J. Briscoe Stephens



NO! says Mike Anzis

More on Windows 95 inside:

- The coast-to-coast launch hit fever pitch last week, page 12 Everybody's a comedian! A humor sampling from the 'net and beyond, page 12
- "Been there, done that" the rallying cry of Mac users, page 14
- Windows 95 migration poses backup hazards, page 24
- Users lay the hardware groundwork for upgrading (page 43) and our reviewer scopes out installation ups and downs, page 44

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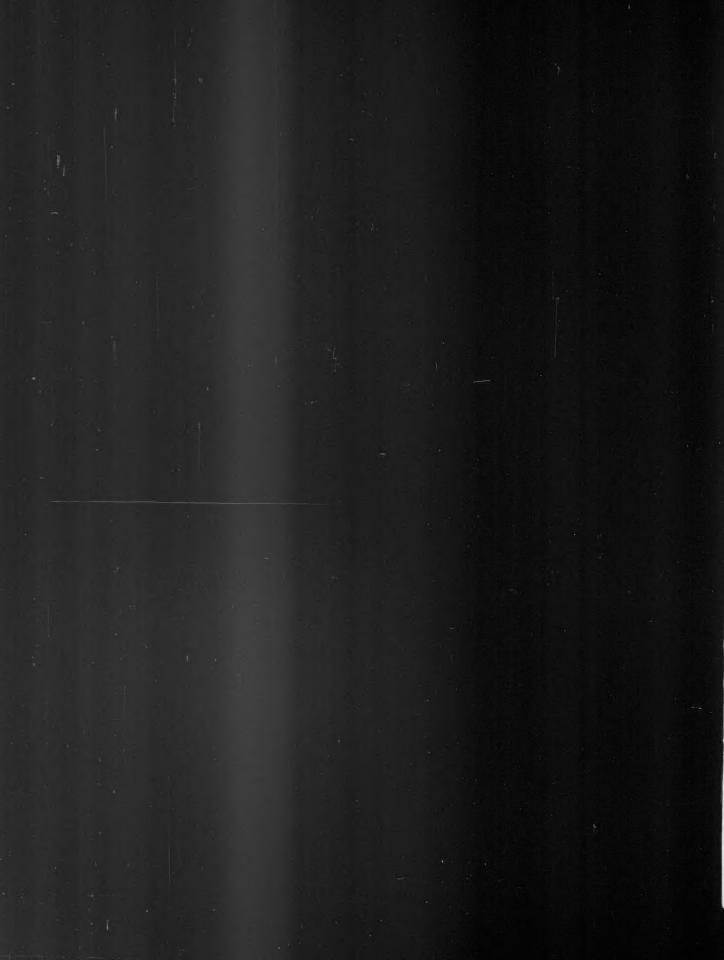
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The VeriTest Cross-Country v.2.0 test simulates typical executive use of Microsoft Office® applications in Microsoft Windows® v.3.11 during an airplane flight. Power management was enabled and 8MB of RAM was installed in a Lattinde XPF 1976. Unreliest, not is located in Santa Monics, CA. Actual battery life will vary depending on nature of use and configuration. For a complete copy of our Limited Wistransies, please write to Dell USA L.P. 2214 W. Glaske. Big. 3, A. Nativ. IX 79758. Prices and specifications void in the U.S. only and subject to change window native of A0n-site service provided by Bacclec Service Copy, and may not be available in certain remote locations. Pertitum and the Pentium processor logs are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft Vindows and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. © 1995 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.





Inside Computerworld

August 28, 1995

News

2 Mainframe price war? IBM's new air-cooled mainframes will see some competition next week when Amdahl begins marketing a rival family.

4 Routing software New software centrally manages diverse routers, switches and carrier services that also build complex WANs.

6 Handheld computers

New PDAs are arriving this fall

— and they may even be useful,
analysts say.

PC price tag twist
PC prices may be in a free fall
right now, but users are actually
spending more money on hardware than ever before.

100 Client/server mainframes IBM plans later this year to start making the mainframe a more complete participant in client/server networks based on the Distributed Computing Environment.

"A good software product is kind of like a good date — smart, friendly ... and under \$100," comedian Jay Leno quipped. That and other Windows 95 jokes were making the rounds last week.

Apple's response
Apple struggles to be heard over the Windows 95 hype.

A new kind of ATM

MFS Datanet is the first company to offer users voice and data over variable bit rate ATM.

Air traffic control
Northwest Airlines charges
American Airlines with computerized reservation system bias.

Cisco enhancements Cisco details new features for its router software in the areas of security and policy-based routing.

OPINION

37 CD-ROM backlash
David Michael Bernard warns
that data on glitzy CD-ROMs is
no more accurate than that in
old-fashioned books.

37 Windows 95
Max D. Hopper says Windows
95 won't win top honors in the
IT hall of fame.

Rich Tennant's "The 5th Wave" is on vacation and will be moving to another location in Computerworld. We'll keep you posted.



Choice Cuts

Client/server
financial software is
moving the earth:
Analysts say the
market will soar
to \$3.7 billion in
1999. But there are
some settling
cracks to contend
with.
CW Guide.

page 88.



The dual faces of Internet security: Steve Moore argues that Big Brother is lurking on the 'net, while Gary H. Anthes contends that all is secure. Enterprise Networking, page 59.

Technical Sections

DESKTOP COMPUTING

43 Hardware upgrades
Some users are laying the hardware groundwork to upgrade to Windows 95.

WORKGROUP COMPUTING

The Desktop Management Interface standard is extended to include remote computers.

Despite the hype about getting information to users' desktops, inbound routing for faxes remains a far-from-perfect technology. It's complex and requires too much user participation

ENTERPRISE NETWORKING

1BM gateway iBM closes in on taking over development and support for a NetWare-to-host gateway. Novell will continue to market it.

AT&T announces plans for comprehensive Internet services, but details remain sketchy.

LARGE SYSTEMS

69 Client/server migration IBM is developing bridges between its MQSeries messaging middleware and mainframebased transaction processing applications.

73 SMP
Data General unveils a high-end server based on an emerging architecture that allows the boxes to scale up to 32 processors.

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

75 Internet development
Object-oriented tool maker
Next Computer unveils plans for
Web development tools.

76 Objects for Win 95 New object-oriented development tools take advantage of Windows 95.

Features

MANAGEMENT

Avoiding layoffs

Managers in Europe and Japan
are finding novel approaches to
avoiding mass layoffs but no
surefire cure.

CAREERS

103 Opting out, cashing in The majority of independent IS contractors make more than \$65 per hour, according to a recent survey. So how can you cash in on this growing field?

MARKETPLACE

Financial software
Getting 100% of financial processing onto a client/server system is at least two years away
for most companies. Meanwhile, companies must decide
between stand-alone, best-ofbreed products and an integrated package.

Etc. Calendar 84 Company Index 120 Editorial/Letters 36,40 Inside Lines 124 Aug. 25 Stock Ticker 121 How to contact CW 120

Coming next week: The 9th annual Computerworld Salary Survey



IS salaries have increased an average of 4.5%, while other professions average 3%. That's good news, but women are still vastly outnumbered in upper management jobs.

Amdahl to heat up air-cooled market

Competition for IBM should ent company Hitachi Ltd. lower costs, but shipments won't start until mid-1996

IBM's new generation of air-cooled mainframes will start losing their lone wolf status next week when Amdahl Corp. begins marketing a rival family. The promise of some honest competition should mean further price relief for System/390 shops, although Amdahl's machines won't ship until mid-1996.

For now, customers can turn to only IBM to get the latest - and cheapest - mainframe technology based on low-cost CMOS micropro-

Slow-motion descent Average price per MIPS for air-cooled System/390 mainframes based on CMOS microprocessors

cessors. While IBM's air-cooled 9672 R models sell for less than traditional ES/9000s, the lack of air-cooled alternatives has enabled the company to hold the line on pricing for the past year.

"If I want to bring in CMOS today, I only have one option, and IBM is making a huge profit margin," said Dale Perry, director of technology architectures at Bell Sygma, Inc. in Toronto.

Perry and other mainframe buyers said they expect Amdahl's systems to force IBM out of its pricing shell. Hitachi Data Systems Corp. is also planning to ship a line of air-cooled machines next year, using IBM's CMOS technology under a licensing deal signed last year by par-

Analysts predicted that the presence of Amdahl and HDS could help push air-cooled pricing down by a third or more from its current perch of up to \$18,000 per MIPS (see chart).

Amdahl is telling customers it expects to have a performance edge over both IBM and HDS, "and that may be the key to success for them," Perry said. Bell Sygma has a mix of mainframes from all three vendors and will 'most definitely' look at each of the air-cooled offerings, he said.

Amdahl declined to comment on its plans, but sources briefed by the company said it will promise performance of 45 to 48 MIPS for its CMOS-based processors, which are being developed by parent company Fujitsu, Inc. Rob Schafer, an analyst at Meta Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn., said he expects IBM to hit about 43 MIPS with the third version of the 9672 R, which

Amdahl will support up to eight processors in a single box, two fewer than IBM can squeeze into a 9672 R, Schafer said. While that puts Amdahl at an overall performance disadvantage, it will mitigate the impact by supporting IBM's technology for coupling multiple System/390s together into so-called "sysplex" clusters that can function as a single machine, he added.

Discount dilemma

However, one disadvantage that may be harder to overcome is IBM's ability to offer discounted package deals combining the 9672 R hardware with MVS and its other mainframe software.

While IBM has always been able to offer such discounts on the side, it created overt 9672 R packages that are used for most purchases of the machines, said Charlie Burns, an analyst at Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn. Since Amdahl and HDS lack their own software products, beating IBM on pricing "is not going to be an easy deal for them," Burns said.

Wayne Pattison, director of data center operations at Kansas City Southern Railway Co. in Missouri, said he expects to stick with IBM as his supplier for the air-cooled machines.

But the arrival of Amdahl and HDS will still e good news, Pattison added. "They'll drive the price down, and IBM will have to come down with them. I'll be glad to take advantage of it."

ATM light goes on at Bay: Hub, router first targets

By Bob Wallace

Bay Networks, Inc. next month will detail long-awaited wares and enhancements to its product lineup that will let users gradually migrate to backbone networks based on Asynchronous Transfer Mode Computerworld learned.

Bay plans to shore up its System

5000 switching hub with an ATM interface in its first detailed technology direction blueprint since the company was formed from the merger of Wellfleet Communications, Inc. and SynOpties Communications. Inc. last year.

Bay sources, who requested anonymity, said the upcoming announcements signal how the System 5000 will be positioned as a full-blown network backbone routing switch" by

1997. A Bay spokesman confirmed plans for the strategy announcement but would not comment fur-

The September announcement will include other improvements

that will enable the System 5000 to anchor an ATM-based LAN switching backbone and support LAN protocols over ATM networks

Users said these announcements will come not a moment too soon.

"I've been looking at the System 5000 for quite a while now and have been waiting for their grand ATM plan since the merged company was launched."

said Bill Horst, a chief at the General Services Administration's communications branch in Philadelphia. "I've wanted to see which of the items that the ATM Forum is working on that they planned to support in their products.'

The ATM Forum, a large industry association, and Bay are both working on schemes for an ATM capability called Private Networkto-Network Interface (PNNI), virtual LAN routing and Multiprotocol-over-ATM (MPOA).

Bay is separately prepping the ATM interface for the System 5000, and it is planning to later add ATM-based LAN switching to the switching hub.

ATM functionality will position the System 5000 as a strong competitor to switches from Cabletron Systems, Inc. and 3Com Corp., said one source briefed by Bay on the planned announcement. "This will make Bay Networks a serious player in ATM [switching].

The enhancements to the System 5000 will include ATM-based

Bay Networks details ATM strategy

The switch maker is prepping the following products and capabilities:

ATM INTERFACE FOR THE SYSTEM 5000

ATM-BASED LAN SWITCHING FOR THE SYSTEM 5000 (ETHERNET AND TOKEN RING)

VIRTUAL LAN ROUTING FOR THE SYSTEM 5000 AND BACKBONE NODE (BN) ROUTER

INTEGRATED PRIVATE NETWORK-TO-NETWORK INTERFACE FOR THE SYSTEM 5000 AND BN

MULTIPROTOCOL-OVER-ATM SUPPORT FOR THE SYSTEM 5000 AND OTHER PRODUCTS

"I've been

looking at the

System 5000 for

quite a while

now and have

been waiting for

their grand ATM

plan since the

merged

company was launched."

General Services

Administration

Bill Horst, chief,

Ethernet and Token Ring LAN switching, the latter coming from Bay's acquisition of Token Ring switching pioneer and start-up Centillion Networks, Inc., sources

> The System 5000 will also support what Bay calls Integrated Private Network-to-Network Interface (I-PNNI), a spin on a specification that the ATM Forum is developing. The Forum's specification would routers and switches pass routing data across an ATM internetwork.

But with I-PNNI, Bay devices could have more capabilities over and above

those specified by the ATM Forum. The Bay devices, for example, could select optimal paths through networks and offer quality-of-service-based routing.

Bay will also eventually build virtual LAN routing capabilities into the System 5000. Virtual LANs are logical rather than physical networks. The System 5000 would be able to support multiple virtual LANs and route between them, sources said.

The vendor also plans support for MPOA, a means for running Novell, Inc.'s IPX and IP between devices in ATM networks, sources

Cisco lifts curtain on high-end routers

By Bob Wallace

Cisco Systems, Inc. last week formally announced the details - architecture, pricing and availability - for its three-model, nextgeneration 7500 high-end routers.

Cisco will offer the 7505, 7507 and 7513 models, which have five, seven and 13 slots respectively. The new 7500 units use the vendor's Internetworking Operating Software, which supports all major protocols [CW, Aug. 21].

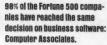
The 7500s integrate routing and switching on a single processor, which frees up slots for interfaces. The company said the new Versatile Interface Processor (VIP) takes that one step

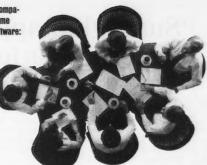
further by supporting multiple interfaces on

Base pricing for the 7505, 7507 and 7513 starts at \$10,900, \$19,900 and \$28,900 respec-

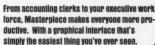
All models are available now. Software options cost \$4,000 to \$8,000.

Cisco offers a VIP that supports four Ethernet links and one 100Base-T "fast" Ethernet link for \$17,000; a model that supports two "fast" Ethernet links for \$16,000; a unit that supports one "fast" Ethernet link for \$12,000; and a VIP with four Ethernet and four serial links for \$17,000. All will ship in the fourth





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Firm adds spark to WAN manager

StonyBrook tool handles routers, switches, services

By Patrick Dryden

To help administrators maintain increasingly complex wide-area networks, router management specialist Stony-Brook Software last week introduced more versatile software.

Called RouterManager/Auto-Bahn, the Windows-based WAN manager provides a single console for configuring and monitoring not only routers and bridges from diverse vendors but also internetwork

Wide-area networks

switches and connection ser-

These capabilities make the tool a significant alternative to the many individual pieces needed to manage multivendor WANs or complex and costly Unix-based management platforms, said Tim Wilson, a management analyst at Decisis, Inc., a consultancy in Herndon,

"AutoBahn offers a holistic view of the backbone that you can't get from individual element managers," Wilson said. "The live view lets you see the topology of all routers, switches and internetwork links at once."

Typically, administrators rely on an enterprise network management platform to integrate the myriad tools from vendors via the Simple Network Management Protocol. StonyBrook's option won't compete with such a core platform

but will serve a niche purpose as a WAN topology manager, Wilson said.

High praise

Beta testers said Router-Manager/AutoBahn met their needs for managing the configuration, performance and faults of their large networks. They specifically praised the Windows-based software for its simplicity.

"AutoBahn installed quickly and easily on a PC and leveraged our Windows skills, so we could do more value-added management tasks than sit around and muck with the tools," said Rick Sangha, telecommunications manager at specialty steel producer Allegheny Ludlum Corp. in Pittsburgh.

Sangha said his former Unix-based management tool set required a considerable amount of time and money for initial training plus an exorbitant amount of administrative overhead. "We had to hire rocket scientists to make it all work and to provide constant attention," he said. "AutoBahn is easier to use, so the

old tools just sit in the corner."

StonyBrook's RouterManager applications integrate well on a Windows platform with other tools, such as the network management services from Novell. Inc., according to Clem Bowen, systems programmer at Buck Consultants, Inc., a

Window into WAN management

STONYBROOK SOFTWARE'S

DESCRIPTION: A single console that configures and monitors WAN elements from diverse vendors.

ROUTERS/BRIDGES/SWITCHES: Manages units and software from 3Com, Bay Networks, Cisco, Digital, Novell and others.

SERVICES: Manages packet-switching technologies, including X.25, frame-relay and Switched Multi-megabit Data Service; support coming for ISDN.

REQUIREMENTS: Windows-based PC with at least a 486 CPU, 20M-byte hard disk and 8M bytes of memory. Windows NT recommended.

STATUS: Available now

"AutoBahn installed

quickly and easily on a

PC and leveraged our

Windows skills, so we

could do more

value-added

management tasks than

sit around and muck with

the tools."

- Rick Sangha,

telecommunications

manager, Allegheny Ludlum

PRICE: \$1,995 plus agents

New York-based benefits consulting company. "Their software is easy to use, with no learning curve, and has the functionality of [Cisco Systems, Inc. router manager] CiscoWorks, so it's cost-effective,"

Problem detection

Bowen tested the AutoBahn version to be able to monitor the frame-relay connections among 18 of the company's 30 rout-

ed sites. Another valuable feature is the ability to test and trace the path a packet takes from source to destination, he

RouterManager/Auto-Bahn can help manage packet-switching technologies including X.25, frame-relay and Switched Multimegabit Data Service (SMDS).

"Now WAN managers can prove to a carrier

where a problem lies," said Ravi Gulati, president of StonyBrook in Bohemia, N.Y.

Besides supporting the generic and private management extensions of both hardware and software routers, the package can manage Ethernet, Token Ring and Fiber Distributed Data Interface switches and their router interfaces. Gulati said.

RouterManager/AutoBahn can run on all Windows versions, but StonyBrook recommends Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT platform.

Pricing starts at \$1,995 for the basic application plus agent modules.

'Superglue' approach to objects gains followers

IBM, Oracle, others sign up for Visual Edge software

Don't fence

Bankers Trust won't be

locked in to using a

broker because it

requirements:

• Fault tolerance

single object request

hasn't found one that

Transaction services

· Ability to operate in a

System management

disconnected state

Configuration

Truly robust,

management tools.

high-performance

global name space

me in

By Elizabeth Heichler

A small company has created technology that might serve as superglue for the fragmented world of distributed objectoriented computing.

IBM, Oracle Corp. and Taligent, Inc. are among the companies that announced last week that they will license Visual Edge Software Ltd.'s Object Bridge, which promises to permit interoperability among all the disparate object models on the market.

Several of the object models available are based on the Object Management Group's Common Object Request Broker Architecture specification, as well as Microsoft Corp.'s Component Object Model (COM). All offer slightly different ways of defining how objects communicate with each other, which makes interoperability between them difficult.

Interest piqued

Bankers Trust Co. in New York is evaluating the technology from Saint-Laurent, Quebec-based Visual Edge, according to Joe Schwartz, senior consultant in software engineering at the bank's Advanced Technology Consulting group.

We're interested in distributed object technology," Schwartz said. And the company also wants to have the flexibility to deploy systems that use a mix of object models, he added.

Because Bankers Trust uses Windows on desktop systems, it needs to enable communication between COM on the client side and different object request brokers (ORB) on the back end, Schwartz explained.

'Our key goal from an applications development perspective is to build an object once and deploy it over a heterogeneous environment," Schwartz said. "Object Bridge promises to help us achieve that goal. We think that the architectural foundation represents an important approach to object system trans-

Schwartz and other observers said Visual Edge's technical approach is different from, and superior to, that taken by some of the object system vendors that do offer some level of interoperability be-

tween their ORBs and COM, for example.

"This is one of the better designed interoperability options," said Melinda Ballou, an analyst at Meta Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn. Other solutions, from individual ORB vendors, don't offer the same level of flexibility, she explained.

Ballou added that another advantage of the Visual Edge solution is that the company is a neutral player in the object market and isn't trying to sell bridge technology in concert with a specific ORB product or object model.

Representatives of Oracle and IBM said they chose to license the Object Bridge technology because it is flexible and can be extend-

ed. This means it will permit information exchange not only among multiple object models but also among object systems and different data types, such as relational databases.

None of the companies is ready to disclose how it will incorporate Object Bridge into future products, nor when the technology will be available to cus-

Object-oriented development tools bow for Windows 95. See page 76.

Corrections

"SAP AG runs late, but users give high marks" [CW, July 31] indicated that SAP AG had slipped on its initial July delivery date for Release 3.0 of its R/3 software. SAP subsequently said it did ship a limited number of R/3 systems in July under its first customer shipment program. Release 3.0 will be available generally by the end of the year, as originally planned, the company said.

Due to an editing error, a photo labeled TeamTalk that ran with "Products with discussion databases" ICW. July 311 should have read FirstClass by SoftArc, Inc. in Markham, Ontario.

Due to a reporting error, "New York eases taxes to create multimedia mecca" ICW, Aug. 14] incorrectly stated that N2K. Inc. sells an interactive CD-ROM-based jazz catalog called Jazz Central Station for record label GRP. Rather, N2K is launching Jazz Central Station, an on-line multimedia connection for the jazz community on The Microsoft Network

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and cheaper?

Poor sales prompt vendors to respond to users' need for better connectivity

By Mindy Blodgett

The troubled personal digital assistant (PDA) market has proved disappointing even for those vendors braced for the worst, but industry observers say several PDA manufacturers are pressing ahead with new and improved products due this fall.

The forthcoming PDAs are likely to be several hundred dollars cheaper, costing \$500 or

less. More important, the next generation of PDAs will more closely meet users' need for connectivity, according to observers.

You should be seeing cheaper PDAs with many more features," said Timothy Schmidt, an analyst at

Encore Consulting Group in Orlando, Fla. "And you should be seeing more interesting software written to PDAs, for instance, providing such things as links to Lotus Notes.

Sources said Hewlett-Packard Co. will release a PDA this fall based on the Geoworks Geos operating system. HP had hoped to release a PDA costing as little as \$300, but sources said the device will likely cost about \$500. HP's 200LX handheld device costs \$549 to \$699.

The high prices of PDAs haven't helped the market, analysts said. Motorola, Inc.'s two wireless devices, Envoy and Marco, cost \$900 to \$1,500. Sony has already dropped the price of its Magic Link PDA from \$699 to \$499.

Andrew Sevbold, editor of "Andrew Sevbold's Outlook on Communication and Computing" in Boulder Creek, Calif., said several unnamed vendors plan to release devices this fall. He said the new PDAs will be true "extensions of the desktop.

Better with age

When PDAs first hit the market, they were derided by many as electronic organizers, so features that appeal to executives were added. For instance, Marco and Envoy offer an Internet electronic-mail capability via RadioMail on the ARDIS Co. wireless radio network. But users want access via their own network systems, according to analysts.

"The PDA will be a very good device once it really communicates back to the user's own desktop," Seybold said. "Surveys have shown that people want a handheld computer with the ability to get them their own E-mail and their

To move ahead, the PDA market needs software that provides applications such as improved connectivity, industry observers said.

In other PDA-related news, Motorola, Inc.'s Microprocessor and Memory Technologies Group in Austin, Texas, last week announced a microprocessor for portable handheld devices Motorola claims the integrated chip should lead to less expensive PDAs because several functions are included in one chip.

Senior writer Jaikumar Vijayan contributed to this report.

PDAs: Better Notebook prices slipping down

Compaq unwraps Pentium portable while Digital, HP slash prices

By Mindy Blodgett and Jaikumar Vijayan

Compaq Computer Corp. last week unveiled its long-awaited, high-end Pentium notebook just as a handful of competitors dropped their prices.

But a price war is not imminent, industry observers say.

Houston-based Compaq released its LTE Elite 5000, which will begin shipping by the end of next month. The LTE Elite 5000 is a full-featured multimedia notebook with up to 2.7G bytes of internal storage, up to 72M bytes of RAM and support for two batteries. Pricing is not yet available. Other features in-

clude a built-in CD-ROM drive and the Motion Picture Experts Group fullscreen, full-motion video standard.

Small potatoes

Meanwhile, analysts said price reductions from Digital Equipment Corp. in Maynard. Mass., and Hewlett-Packard Co. in Palo Alto Calif. are likely due to readjust-

ments to the market or from the companies clearing out inventory to make way for new products. Neither company is a strong enough player in portables to spark a price war, analysts added.

Last week, Digital cut prices on its

notebook computers by 14% to 30%. Prices of Digital's subnotebooks, the HiNote Ultras, will cost \$2,699 to \$3,859. Notebooks in the HiNote family will sell for between \$1,739

and \$2,629.

HP followed up its desktop price cuts with similar cuts on some of its notebook lines. The company last week said it was rolling back prices by up to 19% on its 486-based HP Omni-Book 4000 and OmniBook 600 notebooks. For example, an OmniBook 4000C with a 100-MHz 486DX4 chip and 520Mbyte hard drive will now have an estimated street price of \$2,500 compared with \$3,064.

"This is competitive postur-

Features of the Compaq LTE 5000 notebook:

- Modular design with storage expansion to 5.4G bytes and up to 72M bytes of RAM
- PCI local bus graphics
- Support for two batteries with up to eight hours of battery life
- Option of MPEG full-motion, full-screen video

cisions, Inc. in Norwell, Mass. Still, the pricing action may prompt Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM to cut prices. A spokesman said

last week the com-

ing, not a price

war," said William

Ablondi, an analyst

at BIS Strategic De-

pany would not rule out cutting prices on its ThinkPad notebooks.

Officials from Dell Computer Corp. in Austin, Texas, said they are content with their level of pricing. The Dell Latitude notebooks cost \$1,999 to \$4,526.

"I think some of the price reductions vou are seeing are some companies adjusting to reality," said John Medica, Dell's vice president of portables

The pricing cuts reflect, in part, that active-matrix color displays are shipping in high volumes from Japan and Korea, pushing prices down. Other component cuts, including cuts in processor pricing, are also sending market prices down.

Remote workers gain telephony features on the PC. See page 64.

Portables: **Primary PCs**

BIS Strategic Decisions in Norwell, Mass., predicts that by 1998, a majority (51%) of PC users will use portables as their primary PC. By the year 2000. BIS forecasts that number will jump to 80%.

Digital trolls for PC users with cost lure

Sample price cuts from Digital include the following

aking its bid to stay in a tight PC race, Digital last week said it was slicing the price of its corporate desktop and notebook computers Reductions in the How low can Digital go?

price of Digital's Venturis and Celebris GL PCs, which range from 6% to 17%, come shortly after Compaq, IBM and rising player Hewlett-Packard snipped their PC prices. Digital now offers a 75-MHz Intel Corp. Pentium-based Venturis PC for \$1.679, a \$220 cut that brings its pricing more in line with competitors

What they want

Digital's new prices could be good news for users such as James Grigos, data processing manager at David Clark Co. in Worcester, Mass. The company makes communica tions headsets. Grigos said he recently switched to lowerpriced Gateway 2000, Inc. PCs but would pay a small premium for Digital models in the

future because the company offers excellent support and smooth compatibility with his Ethernet-based network.

"We'd like DEC to come back to us in the future [with lower PC prices]. We have to jump through a few hoops with setting up a Gateway PC," he said.

Digital continues to assert its intention to crack the top tier of PC vendors. Jumping into the price wars with

larger-selling rivals is a must, said Jennifer Munson, an analyst at Workgroup Strategic Services, Inc. in Portsmouth, N.H. The notebook price cuts, meanwhile, signal Digital's readiness to clear its stock before introducing new versions of its Hi-Note line. The move is another indication of Digital's competitiveness, Munson

Digital said its suggested list price for a Pentiumbased HiNote model dropped \$310, to \$1,739. The company also sliced 14% off the price of its entry-level HiNote subnotebook, to \$2,669

The new tag lists for its PCs come on the heels of Digital's unveiling of new PC models. They include Celebris GL, a midrange business

computer that integrates high-performance graphics, audio and networking, and Starion home computers aimed at multimedia users

-Michael Goldberg and Neal Weinberg

HINOTE ULTRA NOTEBOOK



Micro Focus[®] Dialog System™ 3270

Don't pack around an old interface when you can replace it with a few clicks of the What if you could move mouse. With Micro Focus Dialog System's 3270 feature, you can take host- or workstation-based CICS or IMS your CICS applications to a GUI matically translate

without roughing it? them into Graphical User Interfaces. No C programming or API calls. No changes in business logic. No sweat.

The result is an interface that's cleaner, easier to use and integrated with other desktop applications. Then, once you've moved your interface logic to the PC, you can modify it or add new functions without impacting the business logic. Dialog System's 3270 feature makes the first step to Client/Server an easy one. It's one of the many tools within Micro Focus Dialog System; a system that gives you rapid development of GUI interfaces and client/server

Make sure your computing environment is power- and ask for your copy of ful enough to grow and evolve your enterprise-wide applications. Only Dialog System has all the tools you need to manage the changes in your business without getting in over your head.

applications with little or no additional programming.

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Better Way of Programming MICRO FOCUS

Dell strategy tackles dormant server sales

Hard on the heels of what appears to be a fairly successful comeback in the portable computer business, Dell Computer Corp. is now focused on reviving its comatose server business.

According to founder and Chief Executive Officer Michael Dell, the company expects to breathe life into that market sector via a series of moves that include the follow-

· Introducing a high-end, quadprocessor database/application server in the near term.

·Strengthening and building strategic alliances between Dell and key partners such as Oracle Corp. and Microsoft

Corp. to jointly develop database and Microsoft Windows NT servers tuned for Oracle databases.

• Building and extending on its current partnership with 3Com Corp., particularly in the area of 100Base-T 100M bit/sec. Ethernet technology.

· Developing network and system management products that will snap into industry standard environments such as Hewlett-Packard Co.'s NetView and Intel Corp.'s LAN Desk.

term at least, Dell will try to ride Intel's P6 chip into the server space. The company has already confirmed that it is preparing a four-processor P6 application server based on Intel's motherboard and symmetrical multiprocessor design.

That server is expected to start shipping in the first quarter of next year.

A strong server business will be vital to Dell's continued presence in the corporate market, analysts said. Last quarter, server revenue contributed only 3% to overall revenue of more than \$1.2 billion. Desktop PCs contributed an overwhelming 82% of revenue. That makes Dell one of the few players in the top tier that, despite having a major

corporate PC presence, lacks a significant server presence. That market is dominated by Compaq Computer Corp., HP and IBM. Last year, Dell tried to infuse new life into the business when it recruited Mark Garver, one of the top executives at superserver vendor Tricord Corp., to head up Dell's enterprise effort. But unlike Dell's notebook comeback portables now account for 15% of Dell's revenue - the server effort has been stumbling along.

Sticker shocker

Despite deals, users are spending more on PCs

By Jaikumar Vijayan

Company

Dell

Compaq

Gateway 2000

Source: Montgomery Securities, San Francisco

PC prices may be in a freefall right now, but ironically, users are buying more expensive systems than ever before.

Driven by an emerging class of performance-hungry applications and operating systems such as Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95, users increasingly are buying systems equipped with faster processors, beefed up memory and storage, and added multimedia capabilities

As a result, the average price of PCs from some major vendors has actually

Inching up

March

\$2,543

\$2,440

\$1,811

Average Selling Prices for PCs rose for the following vendors:

Paying extra

\$2,568

\$2,504

Some users such as Jim Marra, a senior consultant in strategic planning at Brig-

was \$2,543, while in June it went up to

Although the increase in ASPs seems

marginal, it is nonetheless very signifi-

cant, according to Kurt King, an analyst

at Montgomery Securities. "When you are talking about a situation where ASPs

tend to remain stable year after year, and

when you get to see an increase of 3% ...

that's an aberration," King said.

ham and Women's Hospital in Boston, are already seeing that increase.

"We are paying an average of between \$200 to \$300 extra for every new PC we are buying today, compared to what we were paying before" for an average 486-based configuration. That is because new high-end, high-performance Intel Corp. Pentium-based systems with at least 16M bytes of

RAM and a minimum 420M bytes of disk space are being purchased at a very early - and therefore costlier - stage, Mar-

A relative lull in pricing activity over the last quarter also contributed in a major way to increased ASPs, analysts said.



Users lav hardware groundwork for Windows 95. See page 43



CEO Michael Dell hopes to challenge Compaq, HP and IBM

climbed as much as 3%, despite pricing actions earlier this year.

According to San Francisco-based Montgomery Securities, Average Selling Prices (ASP) went up by about 3% at Dell Computer Corp., 1% at Compaq Computer Corp. and 0.9% at Gateway 2000, Inc.

ASP reflects the average price a PC sold for in the last quarter. At Gateway, for instance, the ASP for PCs in March

News Shorts

Danger: New Microsoft Word virus

A new computer virus that spreads when users exchange Microsoft Corp. Microsoft Word documents has been discovered. An infected system may place the virus, called Winword. Concept, in a document that is opened and then saved using the "File/Save As" menu option, said the National Computer Security Association (NCSA) in Carlisle, Pa. A PC may become infected if a dirty document is transferred to the machine and opened and Word executes a standard document-resident macro. A free fix is available from Microsoft and NCSA's Anti-Virus Vendor Forum on CompuServe (type "go nesavirus").

Bad air delays IBM disk array

IBM's storage division suffered a blow last week when it delayed shipments of its Ramac 2 mainframe disk array by two months. The array was slated to ship this week but wound up in a deep freeze until late October. Potential buildups of hydrocarbon contaminants in IBM's 4G-byte disk drives, in part, caused the delay, said James Vanderslice, general manager of the storage unit. Mainframe shops would be especially susceptible to the buildups because of their continual operations, he

Cheaper minis from HP

Hewlett-Packard Co. announced a licensing scheme last week for HP 3000 9x9 KS series minicomputers that cuts costs for firms with fewer than 64 users. Starting Sept. 1, licenses will cost \$49,400 for eight users, \$58,000 for 20 users, \$66,700 for 32 users and \$80,400 for 40 users. Previously, the smallest license available from the Palo Alto, Calif., firm was for 64 users, at \$84,450.

Not to be outdone ...

IBM cut entry-level prices on its RS/6000 SP parallel processor from \$138,000 to \$90,000 by stripping out the product's communications switch and making it an option. The two-processor model targets application development, and some prospects had complained that the communications switch was an unnecessary expense, IBM said. Software can also be preloaded for SP customers.

The check is in the E-mail

The Financial Services Technology Consortium, a group of 65 banks, technology vendors, academicians and government agencies, last week announced plans to develop an electronic check payment system for the Internet. The system, due to enter pilot testing next year, would let consumers use electronic checkbooks - in the form of PCMCIA cards - to pay bills or buy merchandise from retailers over the Internet.

Netscape extends browsers

Mountain View, Calif.-based Netscape Communications Corp. last week announced two extensions to its popular Navigator browser for the World Wide Web. Netscape Chat allows real-time electronic-mail conversation via chat rooms on Ameri-

Online. ca SmartMarks is a utility for monitoring and updating users' "bookmarked" fa-

vorite sites on the Web. Netscape also promised to ship Navigator Personal Edition for Microsoft's Windows 95 this

Z-mail E-mail package ships

Network Computing Devices, Inc. last week started shipping Z-Mail 4.0 for Windows, an E-mail package for Unix, Windows and Macintosh systems and text-based terminals. The new version supports Microsoft's Messaging Application Programming Interface and comes bundled with a TCP/IP stack. Z-Mail 4.0 is \$165 per user.

MSN inspires antitrust action

As Microsoft basked in the warm afterglow of the launch of Windows 95 and The Microsoft Network (MSN), America Online, Inc.'s European partner, Bertelsmann AG, last week called for international antitrust action against MSN. But Bertelsmann will not file a complaint with the European Commission. An AOL official confirmed Bertelsmann's statements but had no official comment. "It's an easy story for them to remind people on launch day of this issue," said a Microsoft spokesman. noting the lack of formal complaint.

SHORT TAKES Digital Equipment Corp. will soon ship a version of the Open Software Foundation's Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) middleware supporting Microsoft's Windows NT. The DCE for NT products will run on either Intel Corp. processors or Digital's Alpha chips.

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CA-Unicenter.

IBM beefs up mainframe for DCE networks

By Craig Stedman

By year's end, IBM will start making the mainframe a more complete participant in client/server networks that use the Open Software Foundation's middleware to distribute applications across multiple systems

Today, mainframes are limited to being clients in Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) networks, or "cells." But by year's end, IBM will begin betatesting a second release of its OpenEdition DCE for MVS software that enables System/390s to be DCE security servers.

Based on DCE 1.1 and planned for general shipment next March, the new release will also integrate IBM's mainframe-based Resource Access Control Facility (RACF) security software with DCE's Kerberos security, IBM officials said last week. Users should then be able to log in to a DCE cell that mixes main-

frames and other systems without having to key in multiple identifications.

DCE lets applications run over a combination of systems from PCs to mainframes. The technology is a method of connecting departmental islands, although it has been adopted more slowly than proponents had hoped.



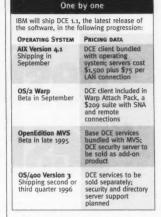
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The upcoming DCE for MVS Version 2 will be introduced in September, but IBM briefed customers on the plans at a DCE developers conference here last week. Also being announced in September is a package that lets mainframes be servers for DCE's Distributed File Service, which would enable users to access mainframe files as if they were stored locally.

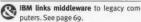
Attention grabber

The promised security features drew the most interest from early adopters at the conference. They said automatic mapping of user IDs between RACF and Kerberos is welcome because it will relieve users of the need to build and administer their own mapping tables.

"That would help us out tremendously," said Warren Bernard, chief architect for consumer markets at MCI Telecommunications Corp. in Washington. "We have a huge issue with log-ons, and having a single one would help in our daily operations and in incorporating new users into the network."

MCI's initial forays into DCE, for applications such as transferring phone calls internally and processing credit cards, do not involve the company's mainframes. "But it's not for lack of desire," Bernard said. He added that he hopes to eventually get the mainframe side of MCI into the DCE cell.

Integration of RACF and Kerberos is one of the key steps that mainframe shops interested in DCE have been waiting for from IBM, said Michael Guidry, a technical adviser at Phillips Petroleum Co. in Bartlesville, Okla.



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Coast-to-coast reality bytes

rom the thrill of people scrambling in the aisles to the agony of empty stores and indifferent customers, Windows 95 entered the real world Thursday.

As users grabbed up the software and other goodies, there would be no more beta users to rely on. Starting at the epicenter of Microsoft Nation, we sampled the grand unveiling at a number of retail outlets across the country.

1. SEATTLE

Searchlights crisscrossed the night sky outside Seattle, guiding "got-to-have-Windows 95" buyers to The Incredible Universe, an electronic superstore here. At 11:04 p.m. — 56 minutes before the software went on sale — the largest contingent of shoppers were from the skateboard set, many of whom had a parent in tow.

Jerry Wilkinson, a parent and family therapist from Kent, Wash., was there with his 17-year-old son. Jared.

Dad hadn't planned on buying a computer operating system in the middle of the night, but then, "I figured we could osomething father-and-son-ish, computer-nerdish," Wilkinson explained. At the stroke of midnight, the Wilkinsons were joined at the cash register by Barbara Jackson, a real estate broker.

"To me, it's just a real fun, exciting night. They've made such a big production out of this. It's kind of like when a new car comes out," she said.

Along with her CD-ROM version of Windows 95, Jackson also had stashed in her cart a radio-controlled Formula 1 car plastered with Microsoft decals. The toy is regularly priced at \$39.95, but for Win 95 buyers it was thrown in for a mere \$9.95. — Julia King

2. SAN BRUNO, CALIF.

The Rolling Stones song "Start Me Up" may be the theme for Microsoft's Win-



dows 95 campaign, but the sound of cash registers ringing up sales into the wee hours of the morning was music to the ears of retailers.

Stocked with more than 6,000 copies of the spanking new 32-bit operating system, some good deals on assorted hardware and about 60 pizzas, the CompUSA store here kept its doors open until 1:35 a.m. Hundreds of latenight customers tapped toes in line for more than an hour to buy Windows 95, the new Microsoft Office and other assorted software and hardware, as well as complete computer systems.

"It's an event, and I just thought it would be kind of fun to come out and buy my copy of Windows 95 tonight," said one San Francisco computer consultant.—Lisa Picarille

3. DALLAS

Texans appeared eager for Windows 95 in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, home of computer superstore giants CompUSA, Inc. and Tandy Corp.

Several area stores reported crowds of about 100 on the launch eve, though not all bought Windows 95. A sales representative for one office supply chain reported much pilfering from advance shipments to area stores. On Thursday, the mayor of Fort Worth launched a program to begin the automatic upgrade of about 400 city computers, with more to follow. — Patrick Dryden

4. FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

Computer City — at least the giant outlet here just west of Boston — was better described as ComputerBackwater last Wednesday night. Near-empty aisles at the retailer left more than 25 yellow-shirted salesmen spending a lot of time leaning on software and hardware displays, chins in hand.

A couple and their sleepy 2-year-old daughter walked the aisles and politely listened to three employees run through some Windows 95 highlights. They left without buying anything.

At CompUSA down the street, things were a little livelier, with balloons, non-alcoholic champagne and free copies of Windows 95 for Dummies on tap. But not everyone bought. "It's not even real 32-bit. They say it is, but it's really not," complained a teenage computer science major from Boston University. — Kim S. Nash

E PARAMIIS N.I

It was midnight madness at a yet another CompUSA outlet last Thursday, where more than 500 shoppers jammed the aisles like lemmings to be a part of the historic release of Windows 95. "It was amazing — we didn't anticipate the crowds being as big as they were," said Jeff Hayden, a store manager.

He was in for another surprise. An ordinance prohibits retailers in Paramus from remaining open after midnight—a regulation that various local computer stores were violating. One policeman drove past CompUSA around 1 a.m. and noticed the crowds but didn't bother stopping—until 1:30, when he returned to pick up his own copy of Windows 95.—Thomas Hoffman

6. WASHINGTON

Charles Schanker, a 53-year-old lawyer in Arlington, Va., who said he learned to use a computer just 18 months ago, was among the first to buy Windows 95 at a local Staples store. Though looking forward to the Internet access feature for himself, Schanker said he doubted the new operating system would find its way into his law firm any time soon. "We still use DOS," he explained. "Everyone is happy with it."

The manager of one Egghead Software store said it was full of customers when Windows 95 went on sale at midnight. "These were mostly power users, and they were buying armloads of software," he claimed. But at 8 a.m. Thursday, the store was deserted.

A man on the subway on Thursday was wearing a Windows 95 T-shirt and said his company was helping Microsoft with its product rollout at a local hotel. Would the man buy Windows 95 at the show? "No way," he said. "I can't afford the hardware upgrades that I'd need." — Gary H. Anthes

Just jokin' around

Humor part of the hoopla — if you can take any more

By Stuart J. Johnston

Although virtually everyone is fed up with the hype and hoopla surrounding the Microsoft Corp. Windows 95 launch, some still have enough wit left for a little humor. A few wags were distributing jokes last week via various electronicmail systems, including the Internet.

One amusing tidbit had IBM announcing that Rush Limbaugh was now its official spokesman. In exchange for a (rather large) seat on the board, Limbaugh immediately began taunting the "Win-Nazis" and asserting that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was one of the ar-

chitects of Microsoft Exchange.

Limbaugh, the joke concludes, has declared his laptop a Microsoft-free zone and says he will launch a fee-based service in Notes called The Warped Truth.

Then, hot on the heels of Microsoft's reported \$4 million purchase of the commercial rights to the Rolling Stones' hit "Start Me Up" — for use in advertising Windows 95's Start button — comes news of a biddingwar for the rights to use another Stones tune.

As the story goes, both Novell, Inc. and IBM are trying to secure the rights to "Sympathy for the Devil." While the target audience is the same, this songwould

be used in attack ads aimed at demonizing Microsoft — literally. Other details of those ad campaigns are still sketchy.

But one industry punster, quoting from Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone," said,

"When you ain't got nothing, you've got nothing to lose."

Meanwhile, a parody of another recent Microsoft ad campaign appeared on the Internet. "Where do you want to go today? Never mind where you want to go.

We'll tell you where to go."

Not every bit of humor surrounding the launch was fictitious, however.

Although Microsoft has licensed the rights to the entire "Start Me Up" song, it did elect to leave out a few lines. One of

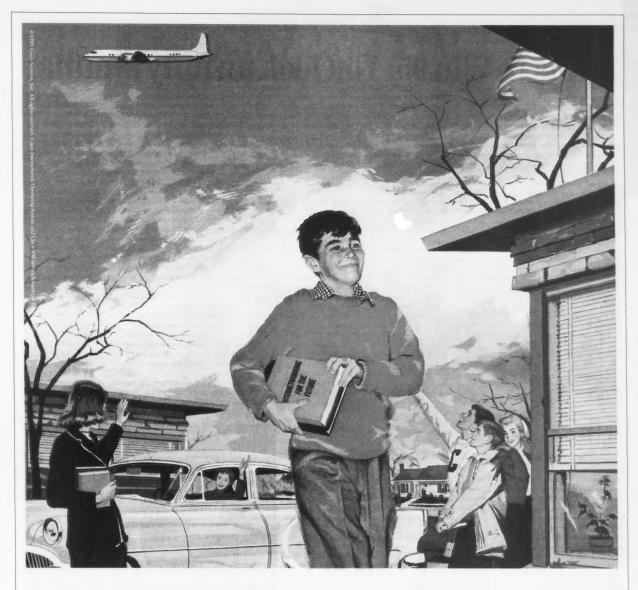
the deleted lines was simply too raw to repeat in polite company. But the other was a line that the company hopes never strikes a chord of recognition with Win-

dows 95 users: "You make a grown man cry. You make a grown man cry."

> Speaking of grown men — although this one was laughing comedian Jay Leno showed up at Microsoft's Seattle campus the day before the launch and took a spin around the company's

campus in Chairman Bill Gates' golf cart. Reportedly a gift from Gates' wife, Melinda, the cart looks like a giant Microsoft mouse. Good thing Windows 95 supports the right mouse button, so Leno didn't have to make only left turns.





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Apple to Win 95: You look awfully familiar

By Lisa Picarille

If you have managed to escape the massive hype surrounding the launch of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 operating system, you must live under a rock. But if you've missed rival Apple Computer, Inc.'s counterattack, you probably just blinked.

Although Michael Mace, Apple's director of Macintosh platform marketing, said the Cupertino, Calif.-based computer maker has several thrusts under way to promote its Mac OS against Windows 95, its efforts are barely audible compared with Microsoft's mammoth \$200 million media blitz, according to industry watchers.

That could be a problem, despite the fact that according to some observers, Apple is reaping the kind of publicity money can't buy, given the constant comparisons last week between Win-

Apple's counterattack

Apple is combating the Windows 95 hype with the following efforts:

- BLITZING MEDIA AND ON-LINE SERVICES WITH MAC OS VS. WIN 95 COMPARISONS.
- DOUBLING ITS ADVERTISING BUDGET.
- BUYING ADS IN MACINTOSH AND PC TRADE PUBLICATIONS.

STARTING A NEW TV AD CAMPAIGN.

lows 95 and the Mac OS.

"The impact [of Windows 95] on Apple is potentially very serious," said Chris Le Tocq, president of SoftTracks Software Research, a

market research firm in Los Altos, Calif. "Apple should be cranking it up a little more, and they should be doing it now for the high buying season."

Media blitz

At the moment, Apple is countering Windows 95 by barraging the media, industry analysts and the on-line world with daily releases touting the Macintosh's advantages over Win-

dows 95. The theme takes a page out of popular lexicon "been there, done that."

For example, the company sent out T-shirts bearing that slogan. The T-shirt also lists the Macintosh's technological advantages and the year these features were implemented.

While that isn't quite as attention-grabbing as Microsoft's announcement, for which the company spent \$4 million to license the song "Start Me Up" from rock legend the Rolling Stones, "we are reaching alot of the people that do recommendations." Mace said.

To reach consumers, who are expected to make up the initial wave of Windows 95 buyers, Apple has doubled its advertising budget, according to Mace. One offshoot is the comparative ads that have started to appear in Macin.

tosh and Windows trade publications.

The company also launched a television advertising campaign the day Windows 95 was released. The ads focus less on bashing Microsoft and more on what Macintoshes

will do for users.

But some industry watchers said Apple might be better served by waiting a month or so until the Microsoft noise quiets down.

"The Windows 95 introduction will overwhelm Apple," said Jeff Silverstein, editor of the "Software Industry Bulletin" in Stamford, Conn.

"Right now, it's pointless to try and be heard above Microsoft. The basic Mac vs. Windows arguments still haven't changed. It's just that right now, Microsoft is taking up a lot of media shelf space, just like they take up retail shelf space." he said

But some users said less flash and more substance might be the right answer for Apple.

"I'm not impressed by the Hollywood marketing. I'm impressed when a company does what they said they were going to do. Without that consistency and stability, [you] can't count on them," said Mike Bailey, a systems analyst at Lockheed Martin Missile and Space in Sunnyvale, Calif.

C A

A bevy of new products debuted at the recent Macworld show. See page 49.

What color is your parachute?

Apple has quietly established a plan to protect management if the company has a change in control. Apple, which has denied that it is for sale, in June drew up severance agreements, better known as golden parachutes, for its top executives. The agreements disclosed in a recent filing with the Securities and **Exchange Commission** - entitle executives to large payments if they lose their jobs or are demoted following a merger, sale of the company or acquisition of a controlling interest by a new investor.

Microsoft zips lips

CONTINUED FROM COVER 1

managers.

Other locations were more revealing, however. Although CompUSA declined to release early sales figures, company officials did estimate that several hundred copies were sold on average last Thursday at each of its 86 locations. At the Babbages and Software, Etc. chains, spokespeople said sales were 20% to 40% higher than anticipated.

For Seattle-area Keane, Inc. — one of five companies furnishing Windows 95 help desk support — the terms of its contract with Microsoft muzzled the firm from disclosing any information about call volumes or the breakdown of calls from home-based vs. corporate PC users.

Conversations with people who staff Keane's help center were severely restricted last week. One reporter was escorted through the facility by no fewer than three Keane managers and public relations people who monitored all exchanges with personnel.

In disguise

Windows 95 banners and posters were plastered throughout the company, and many of the mostly male, twenty-something staffers were wearing Windows 95 T-shirts.

The Windows 95 users whose calls for help were patched through to any of Keane's 350 staffers were supposed to think they were get-

ting answers directly from Microsoft.

"We want this to feel very much like a single company providing support," explained Deborah Willingham, vice president of Windows 95 support at Microsoft. After being swamped with thousands of calls from users following the release of both Windows 3.0 and 3.1, Microsoft said it now has 1,500 technicians providing telephone support for Windows 95.

Microsoft's heavyweight control tactics also applied to its other launch partners — Unisys

Corp., Digital Equipment Corp., Softmart, Inc. and Stream International, Inc. — that were handling overflow support calls.

A spokeswoman for Stream International, inc. (formerly Corporate Software) said she could not disclose information about help desk calls. "Our contract limits us in terms of what we can say [about] the types of calls we receive," she said. "Micro-

soft is collecting all of that information."
Microsoft executives said they expect a high
number of Windows 95 calls because of the
number of people who will be installing the new
system, not because of software problems.

But Windows 95 support technicians got extensive training anyway. As a result, staffers at Keane's site — which began taking calls from some 400,000 Windows 95 beta users on June 12 — are abundantly knowledgeable about the much-hyped operating system.

Take 23-year-old Linda Hedlund, who last week was answering calls from one of 10 cubicles in the "Romulus" section at Keane.

"I pretty much live, breathe and eat Win 95." A lot of my social life is also around Win 95,"



Linda Hedlund, like other Windows 95 support technicians at Keane, said she lives, breathes and eats Windows 95

Windows 95 buyers get 90 days of free support. After that, users who call Keane will be charged \$30 per call. said Hedlund, who was to cohost a Saturday night Windows 95 launch party at the home of another Windows 95 technician.

Senior editor Kim S. Nash contributed to this report.



Windows 95 installs easily, our reviewer found. See page 44.

15

Voice, data share ride on ATM

By Neal Weinberg

MFS Datanet, Inc. is offering users a service that combines data and voice over Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), which is less expensive than ATM for data and separate phone lines for voice.

The San Jose, Calif.-based company is pitching its Wide Area Voice Exchange (WAVE) as a way for high-volume users to merge their voice and data lines into one high-speed network.

Users and analysts say the technology is intriguing, but they have questions about the quality of voice service and pricing.

Catch the WAVE

MFS Datanet's voice, data and video combination

SERVICE: Voice, data and video over variable bit-rate ATM

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Bob Womack, director of computer services at the Boston law firm of Hale & Dorr uses ATM to send data and has a separate line for voice between the company's offices in Boston and Washington.

'We're paying for a number of bandwidths, with voice and data on separate circuits. It would be great to combine them into a single service." he said.

Womack said he is prepared to "kick the tires in a fairly serious way," but he needs more information from MFS Datanet before he decides. His top concern is voice quality, then price.

Users beware

Tom Nolle, president of CIMI Corp., a Voorhees, N.J., consultancy, cautioned that there are no industry standards for the type of voice service MFS Datanet is offering. "Users need to check with equipment vendors to make sure they use a common voice encoding technology," he said.

MFS Datanet, the operating company of MFS Communications Co. in Omaha, said it will offer two classes of voice ser-- informational and toll quality, which it described as comparable to a domestic toll call.

The company has launched the service in five U.S. cities and plans a larger rollout in 1996. MFS Datanet is charging customers an all-inclusive monthly fee that covers equipment, the service and system management.

Prices vary depending on the options a customer chooses. But the firm said a five-node site combining voice and data at T1 speeds would cost roughly \$38,000 per month, compared with \$45,000 per month for separate voice and data.

Walter Majo, an analyst at Link Resources, Inc. in New York, said this is the first commercial deployment of voice over a type of ATM called variable bit rate (VBR). He said the advantage is that it dynamically reallocates bandwidth between voice and data.

"VBR is far more efficient than con-

stant bit rate because you only use bandwidth when there's voice to send." Nolle added. With constant bit rate, the customer pays for bandwidth whether it's being used or not.

Jennifer Pigg, an analyst at The Yankee Group in Boston, said there is plenty of user demand for voice over ATM but not much interest among the major carriers. The carriers view it as cannibalizing their lucrative long-distance voice service.

Pigg said lack of participation by the large carriers has stymied industry group efforts to create voice over VBR standards. But it has also left the door open for smaller companies such as MFS Datanet to jump in and offer the service.

Senior editor Bob Wallace contributed to this report.



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Scheduling software | SCO maps out ignites airline battle

Northwest alleges display bias

By Thomas Hoffman and Mitch Betts

Northwest Airlines last week called for a government-imposed recall of PC software from American Airlines that biases Sabre Travel Information Network displays so travel agents see American flights on top" or even exclusively.

The software in question, which has been distributed free to travel agencies, was specifically

designed to change the travel agent's displays. The agency's systems administrator loads the software and selects the options such as "AA on top" or "AA only.

A snokesman for the U.S. Department of Transportation said the Northwest complaint is "under review." American Airlines has until Sent. 5 to file an official response. Then the department will determine if the complaint warrants a hearing and further action.

Hazy lines

The complaint, filed with the Transportation Department, charges that American's practice of distributing its Preference MAAnager software free to travel agencies is a pernicious effort to evade the department's regulations against display bias in airlineowned reservation systems.

Federal regulations outlaw such display bias on the grounds that the bias deceives consumers and gives an unfair advantage to the airline that owns the reservation system.

However, travel agencies can legally use third-party software to comply with the carrier preferences of corporate clients who have negotiated volume discounts and want to ensure their employees use those preferred vendors. The American package differs in that it gives preference only to American flights.

Although American's add-on PC software is distrib-

it is considered part of the Sabre "system" or if it qualifies as a third-party package, experts said.

Northwest argues that American has an unfair advantage with Preference MAAnager because AMR Corp., American's parent company, is the only U.S. airline that has sole ownership of a reservation system.

Sabre commands the lion's share of computer reservation terminals used by travel agents in the U.S. and Canada, with 77,219, or nearly 40%, of all

displays in use, according to a survey this year by Business Travel News, a New York-based newspaper.

In contrast, WorldSpan, a reservation system owned by Northwest, Delta Air Lines and Trans World Airlines, runs on 33,000 U.S. and Canadian terminals, giving it less than a 17% market share.

A spokesman for American said the airline was 'mystified" by Northwest's complaint, "We feel the type of program we offer in Preference MAAnager is completely legal" under the Transportation Department regulations, which were updated in 1992 to allow travel agencies to buy third-party software that rearranges the system displays to accommodate customer preferences.

Several travel industry consultants said American is exploiting a gray area in the government's regulations because the software is loaded onto travel agency PCs and isn't part of Sabre's mainframe system where it would definitely be illegal under the regula-

"It's a pretty sharp marketing ploy," said Robert Langsfeld, a travel management consultant at Langsfeld Fazio & Associates in Incline Village, Nev.

Langsfeld said he doubts American's practice is illegal - although "it certainly pushes the edge" - because travel agencies have the discretion to choose whether or not to use the PC software

high-end plan

Continuing an aggressive product rollout schedule, Unixon-the-PC pioneer The Santa Cruz Operation (SCO) last week added management and development tools. And it chiseled out a map that leads its operating system from the 32-bit present to a 64-bit future by 1997.

SCO is bidding to become a bigger player at the high end of the client/server market and a more cooperative citizen in heterogeneous networks. The company unveiled a more powerful version of its OpenServer operating system earlier this year and is rapidly adding features and ancillary products to support mixed Unix and Windows client/server environments.

Santa Cruz on the move

SCO's Wintif 95 technology, which lets Unix developers and users achieve the look and feel of the Windows 95 interface without modifying their software.

Software licensed from Go Ahead Software in Seattle that supports alert-based systems monitoring and management for users of the SCO OpenServer operating system.

Back-up technology licensed from Cheyenne Software in Roslyn Heights, N.Y., which allows users to back up Windows PCs and other clients from SCO OpenServer systems.

Mainsoft in Sunnyvale, Calif., will port its suite of 32-bit Windows development tools to SCO OpenServer Release 5

Providing systems management capabilities is important for SCO because "the smaller business (customers) in their market never used to bother with systems management, but now they want to reduce the load on their administrators when things go wrong," said Angela Hey, an analyst at Input, Inc. in Mountain View, Calif. Also, she added, users want proactive systems management tools that warn of impending problems.

Getting ready

The first products resulting from SCO's new alliances will be available in the first quarter of 1996 (see chart). Until then, users and developers at last week's SCO Forum conference here said they will work toward smooth transitions from earlier operating system versions to OpenServer 5.

"You don't upgrade to OpenServer 5, you migrate to it," said David Gloria, vice president of technical services at Computer Integrators, a software development firm in Richardson, Texas. Careful planning is required to avoid problems during any transition to a new operating system, he

Scott McGregor, SCO's senior vice president, outlined the company's Top 4 systems management priorities:

- Managing SCO environments.
- · Making SCO systems manageable by others, especially platform vendors such as IBM and Hewlett-Packard Co.
- Managing mixes of SCO and Windows systems
- · Managing other vendors' Unix systems

While he gave no time frames for achieving these priorities, McGregor added that users can expect SCO to announce a partnership with a major management platform

SCO's plans for a 64-bit operating system - code-named Olympus - are a "competitive necessity if they want to interoperate with real workstations" in high-end client/server environments, Hey said. As more powerful processors and operating systems come to PCs, they will compete with Unix workstations to handle systems management func-

Cabletron

CONTINUED FROM COVER 1

technology in the modules for stand-alone switches: meaning users will not need a full-blown LAN switching system, which could save them thousands of dollars.

With Ethernet switching, network managers can configure each port to deliver a dedicated 10M bit/sec. of bandwidth for a single power user or for a small subnetwork of users. Traditional Ethernet, on the other hand, requires many users to share 10M bit/sec. of bandwidth.

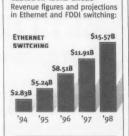
Analysts spoke highly of Cabletron's switching modules. "This turns the MMAC-Plus into a very powerful LAN switching backbone network switch at what could be the lowest cost in the industry," said Daniel Briere, president of TeleChoice, Inc., a Verona, N.J., consultancy. "This sends them to the front of the class.'

The products will be rolled out over the next six months, the documents said. The Ethernet Switch Module supports 24 ports, as opposed to six with the older model. The FDDI Switch Module supports two ports as opposed to one.

Cabletron's old Ethernet switching module handles up to 150,000 packets per second, whereas the new module, with its Fast Packet Switch ASIC, can handle up to 750,000 packets per second.

That boosts the aggregate switching performance of the MMAC-Plus by a factor of 10, to 10.5 million packets per second, all without blocking.

Showtime relies on an MMAC-Plus to anchor a video network that editors and producers use to create promotions that run between the cable channel's movies, Pollack said. "With video, we can use all the performance and switched Ethernet ports that they can give us," he said.



Cabletron looks ahead



ce: Dell'Oro Group, Menio Park, Calif



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database activities so you can develop your most important resources first, design systems that make sense, and enjoy immediate benefits. Best of all, EDA/SQL can extend data access beyond your warehouse database, transforming your entire enterprise into a "Virtual Data Warehouse."

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Cisco unwraps router software features

Cisco Systems, Inc. last week detailed new router software features that will support more secure and less costly LAN internetworks.

The features for Cisco's Internetworking Operating System (IOS) router soft-

able as a free upgrade to users who have software maintenance contracts with the company.

SmartNet encompasses three areas: security, policy-based routing and widearea network optimization.

One new security feature, Message Di-

gest 5 (MD5), is a public domain encryption algorithm that encrypts data sent by routers in an effort to minimize the chances of hackers gaining access to LAN internetworks. The emerging standard for boosting internetwork security is being developed by the Internet Engineering Task Force.

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model and export it to

PowerBuilder for enhanced

consistency. Or, from

S-Designor, you can gen-

erate, in a point and click

fashion, pre-built SQL

statements or query

"This is a major capability and a big deal because you don't want people eavesdropping on conversations across your network or injecting anything designed to negatively impact the 'net," said David Meyer, a senior network engineer at the University of Oregon in Eugene, a large Cisco shop.

With another new IOS feature, attempts to access a LAN internetwork and the resulting action are logged every five minutes and sent to the console of a net-

"You often don't find out that your network has been violated until it's too late," Meyer said. "With the logging capability, I get the source and destination, the protocol and the port that [hackers] attempted to use."

work administrator.

Be selective

Policy-based routing provides a means for network administrators to specify the type of end users allowed to use various WAN links.

For example, using a simple set of commands, a network administrator could program routers to allow engineers run-

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include the following:

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Inc., Chipcom Corp.,

Compaq Computer

Corp., Cascade

Corp., Network

Communications

Technologies, Inc. and

Optical Data Systems,

ning file transfer protocol to send their often time-sensitive traffic over Integrated Ser-Digital Network lines, whereas others could use only lower speed

X.25 links. "With this capability, network doesn't define corporate policy; policy defines how the

network is used," said Kevin Delgadillo, software release product manager for IOS at Cisco. Prior to this capability, there was no means to set any policy, Meyer said.

Cisco also announced WAN optimization features designed to minimize use and costs of dial-up links. With the SPX Spoofing feature, keep-alive messages are sent to the local router on Novell, Inc. NetWare LANs. The local router is then fooled into thinking they came from a remote router. As a result, the local router doesn't waste expensive WAN links to send the messages to distant routers.

Another IOS feature, dubbed Floating Static Routes, was designed to improve performance of Apple Computer, Inc.'s AppleTalk or Banyan Systems, Inc.'s Vines LAN internetworks. If a WAN link tied to a specific router goes down, the device can send traffic to an alternate router, which will transmit the data using Floating Static Routers - essentially the routes of last resort — to its destination.

SmartNet features will be incorporated in Release 11.0, which will be available next month.

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Windows 95 migration poses backup hazards

Stand-alone PC users who depend on local tape backup systems risk losing critical data as they move to Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95.

Backup-related "gotchas" that can destroy data and derail Windows 95 migra-

base and potential conflicts between new 32-bit applications and older 16-bit versions.

•Long Windows 95 file names can be truncated and the original file names

tion stem from the operating system's • Changes to the Windows 95 Registry use of long file names, its Registry data- database between the time of the last backup and the time of system

restoration can be lost. Tape backup Older software running under Windows 95 may not recognize an ex-

isting tape drive (device driver). "We have dealt with all three of those problems," said Mike Flagg, a systems integrator at Shadow Enterprises in Danbury, Conn., which has been betatesting Windows 95 for a year and a half. The problems apply only to users who depend on desktop tape backup software and hardware because most users of LAN-attached PCs are protected by server-based backup applications.

Be prepared

Flagg advised PC users to "make sure you have a complete working backup before Windows 95 enters the scene." He noted that while Microsoft provides a long file name backup utility program with Windows 95, "it's a workaround that is very sluggish and not very elegant."

The same description applies to Microsoft's Windows 95 backup applet, which is "very basic, not compatible with other backup applications and supports only a very limited set of tapes," he said.

A Microsoft spokesman confirmed that running older backup applications under Windows 95 can cause problems, particularly with long file names. He added that even though Windows 95 main-

tains a backup copy of the Registry on each hard disk. users should do regular backups to protect against disk failures. Also, he said, Windows 95's backup utilities

Microsoft's backup utility is 'a workaround that is very sluggish and not very elegant.' Mike Flagg, Shadow Enterprise

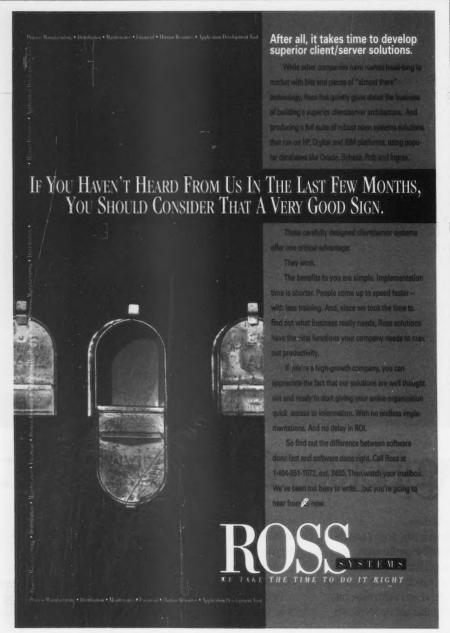
are provided as a courtesy to users. They aren't intended to compete with more elaborate third-party backup applica-

According to Dataquest, Inc. in San Jose, Calif., only about half of the nationwide installed base of 5 million standalone PCs are backed up. Even those users who do have backup software can run into problems with Windows 95. For example, they may be unable to get quick support when a major backup problem occurs because many backup products are sold through OEM channels.

'We have 200,000 registered users [of our backup software], but there are about 2 million people using the product, and sometimes they don't know that we did the software," said Nick Blozan, a product marketing manager at Arcada Software, Inc. in Lake Mary, Fla. The company is mailing Windows 95 upgrade information to its registered users but can't reach OEM users.

Even when older 16-bit applications run trouble-free under Windows 95, "they [have to] run in compatibility mode. So Windows 95 won't be running at top speed because you don't have a 32bit device driver," Flagg said.

To sidestep problems, analysts said, users should upgrade their applications to 32-bit Windows 95 versions with 32-bit device drivers as quickly as possible.



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Tivoli tightens TME platform

Pieces missing from enterprise

technology management

Correlation of management information across all classes

of systems and applications from the desktop to the

mainframe, with minimal time spent on defining environment

pricing schemes with no hidden or mandatory add-ons.

Ability to rapidly quantify the

budgetary benefits of increased automation.

Straightforward economical

specific rules.

Tivoli Systems Corp. recently introduced an improved version of its systems and applications management platform. The major enhancement is a new twist on the console fea-

ture that includes an automation engine and "rules builder"

Distributed systems management

with which users can implement systems and applications management procedures. Tivoli's platform is called the Tivoli Manage-

ment Environment (TME); the console piece is called the Tivoli/Enterprise Console (T/EC).

Users and analysts said Austin, Texas-based Tivoli has taken a needed step in using automated event correlation

to support integrated, enterprisewide management of computers, applications and network devices.

"Tivoli is really moving along with improvements to TME [and is] able to go beyond simple event messages to automated actions" in response to events, said Paul Mason, research manager of enterprise systems management at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

Not enough

However, Mason said T/EC 2.5 "can't do some things" that Command Post from Boole & Babbage, Inc. in San Jose, Calif., can, such as manage mainframes and network devices.

One user welcomed increased management integration but was skeptical about its near-term benefits. "Anybody would like to centralize and put all management functions in one product if they can, but then you are likely to run into compatibility issues" when trying to bring in data from third-party sources, said Patrick Moles, director of networks and operations at Fleet Mortgage Group in Los Angeles.

Moles said Fleet evaluated TME and several other alternatives but is leaning toward the Spectrum management system from Cabletron Systems, Inc. in Rochester, N.H. Cabletron unveiled plans last week to add systems management capabilities to its Spectrum network management platform.

But a Command Post user pointed to the quantifiable benefits of integrating management functions. Command Post's correlation capabilities resulted in 0.2% increased availability of networks and systems for Sprint Corp. in Dallas, said Dave Karthauser, a technical analyst at the telecommunications service provider.

"That doesn't sound like a lot, but it equates to savings of roughly \$2 million a year" because the software helps spot and react to problems more quickly, he said. Without the correlation capability. several administrators would end up working on the same problem, Karthauser said.

T/EC 2.5 will cost \$65,000, including software for an enterprise server and "a base set of branch [office] servers," a Tivoli spokeswoman said. The total cost depends on how many branch servers are required. Adapter software modules - required to link to customers' databases and management applications with the branch servers - are provided free of charge.

"That \$65,000 is the tip of the iceberg," said Frank Dzubeck, president of Communications Network Architects, Inc., a Washington consultancy. The overall cost of the system would be much higher in the large shops for which TME was designed, he added.

Vista cruising

FACTS ABOUT PALINDE

Administers multiple Palindrome Backup Director and Storage Manager systems.

Links to network management platforms via the Simple Network Management Protocol.

Vista console software costs \$795: agent software prices range from \$1,495 for a five-user pack to \$79,995 for a 500-user pack.

Palindrome opens up to new Vista

By Steve Moore

Palindrome Corp. last week announced a new centralized storage management application that supports backup, archiving and hierarchical storage management across multiple domains within an enterprise.

The Naperville, Ill., storage provider's Visual Storage Administrator (Vista) console manages only client/server domains in which Palindrome backup software is installed. But the company plans to enable Vista to manage other vendors' departmental backup applications.

"Vista allows me to go to one screen and see the status of backups for our entire company, and I'm looking forward to the day when more applications - like E-mail products - support this kind of centralized management," said Dan Strohl, director of information systems at JSP International in Malvern, Pa. JSP has 10 Novell. Inc. NetWare servers that must be backed up, he said.

Analysts hailed Palindrome's further announcement that it will work to get systems integrators to adopt its products as the basis for client/server storage management outsourcing services.

"Storage management outsourcing has been evident at the minicomputer and mainframe levels for years" and is "a natural" for today's larger client/server environments, said Dan Friedlander, a storage management consultant at Circulus Strategies in Boulder, Colo.

To their liking

Companies with many distributed sites are more likely to outsource storage management functions than those whose operations are concentrated in a single large site, he added.

But some users prefer to handle their own storage management. "It's more economical for me to spend time putting together [storage management capabilities] than to pay someone else to do it," said Michael Atkinson, a systems administrator at Northwestern University in Chicago and a user of Palindrome's backup software.

Vista and other Palindrome storage management products currently run in NetWare environments, but Palindrome plans to port its products to Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT later this year, with versions for Hewlett-Packard Co. and Sun Microsystems, Inc. Unix variants to follow

Users prep cabling for fast LANs

By Patrick Dryden

Many large organizations are overhauling their network cable infrastructure to support high-speed workgroup applications, according to a recent survey.

Today, use of data-quality Category 5 unshielded twisted-pair (UTP) cable has surpassed phone-quality Category 3 UTP among organizations with more than 1,000 employees, according to Sage Research, Inc. in Natick, Mass. The decision by Ethernet vendors five years ago to support the ubiquitous Category 3 UTP cabling had propelled that 10M bit/sec. network technology to near-universal acceptance. However, users now seek more bandwidth, and many have switched or are switching to Category 5 UTP.

Almost 71% of the survey's 126 respondents have Category 5 UTP installed for LANs. The majority of "fast" Ethernet adapters, concentrators and switches require Category 5 UTP to operate at 100M bit/sec. That grade also supports the UTP versions of Fiber Distributed Data Interface and Asynchronous Transfer Mode transports.

Choosing fiber optics

Anticipating high-speed needs, 43% of those planning to replace or install new network cables within the next four years expect to adopt fiber-optic cable. But Category 5 UTP will maintain its momentum.

Nearly 60% said they plan to install new network cabling in the next 12 months.

Much cabling currently installed in horizontal wiring systems can't support the performance required by emerging applications, according to Kimberly Steinbruck, who authored the survey.

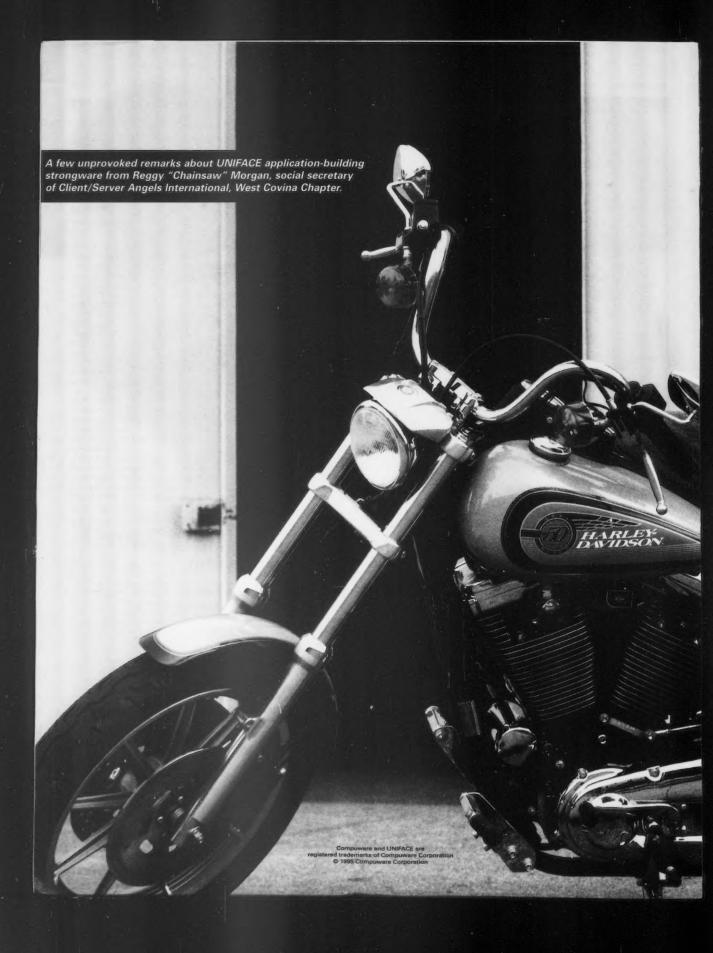
What is your current horizontal wiring? (Multiple responses allowed)

Other			2.5%				
Shielded twisted-pair Thin coaxial Multimode liber Single-mode liber			36.9% 36.9% 18.0% 7.4%				
						5	70.5%
				twisted-pair		4	12.3%
				Jnshielded	Category	3	32.8%

When will you install new cabling?







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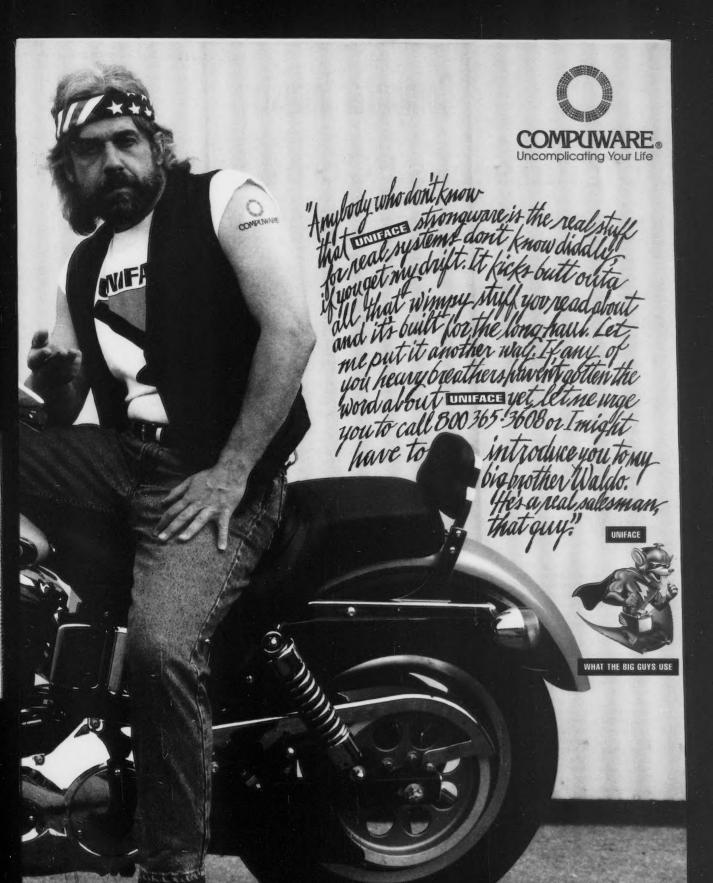
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Computer Industry

Digital seeks PC crown

Despite setbacks, firm plans new models, distribution

Digital VP Enrico Pesa-

tori says the company

will continue to seek

top-tier PC status

By Michael Goldberg and Neal Weinberg

Digital Equipment Corp. set a goal in 1994 to become a Top 5 PC vendor by the end of 1995. But more than halfway

through the year, the company hasn't even cracked the Top 10.

Three weeks ago, the company reported that PC revenue rose only 20% in the latest quarter after a streak of 100% increases. Within 48 hours of that announcement, PC business unit head Berhard Auer was ousted.

Enrico Pesatori, vice president and general manager of Digital's computer systems division, is temporarily leading the

company's PC business unit. He said he plans to name a replacement in a few months.

Pesatori, who joined Digital in early 1993 to head up its PC group, said in an interview last week that the Maynard, Mass.-based company will continue to seek first-tier PC status by increasing its presence in retail stores and introducing desktop, laptop and PC server models.

Pesatori said the PC business unit's

goal is to increase revenue by at least 40% between now and next June.

He said he will add more retailers to his PC distribution list over the next few weeks. But he acknowledged that Digital is not quite ready—from infrastructure and product standpoints—to ramp up to the consumer market penetration enjoyed by PC leaders such as Compaq Computer Corp.

"The retail channel is on the borderline of the ner market, and the Digital

consumer market, and the Digital brand name does not stand exactly as a consumer brand name. There is a lot of brand awareness to be built," Pesatori said.

Meanwhile, he said he would ensure Digital coordinates its PC sales efforts with marketing programs for other systems such as the AlphaServer family. He said he will make certain Digital leverages its service organization — which has a staff of 800 trained to support Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 and Windows NT operating systems — in order to harvest sales throughout the enterprise.

Digital needs its PC business to grow to pollinate sales of its servers and other products and services, he said.

Without rising PC sales, "you cannot afford to have the economies of scale to defend the different market segments where you play... To compete with Compaq and Hewlett-Packard and IBM in those fields, you need the volumes" from the corporate and consumer sides, Pesatori said.

Analysts said Digital is following the right course by seeking more consumer PC outlets and offering new products, such as it did last week with the Starion series for home users and the Celebris for business desktops. Analysts said the company is doing reasonably well considering its late entry into the field and that it may be unrealistic to expect a continued speedy climb in the PC market standings.

Consent decree with Microsoft finally approved

Questions linger about NT

By Mitch Betts

Still hot

The Department of

eral times last week

Justice reiterated sev-

that it is continuing to

investigate Microsoft

to see if there have

been violations of

antitrust laws or the

consent decree. One

probe involves indus-

try complaints about

the bundling of Micro-

soft's on-line service

with Windows 95.

"This hearing will be short and sweet."

That is how U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson opened last week's status meeting on the government's 1994 antitrust settlement with Microsoft Corp. And true to his word, it was.

Within 20 minutes, as required by a previous court ruling on the matter, he brusquely signed

the long-delayed consent decree.

The accord, which settles charges that Microsoft stifled competition in the PC operating system marwill ket. govern Windows licensing practices for the next 61/2 years. Among other things, it prohibits charging a per-processor license fee even if the Microsoft operating system is not installed, a practice that has discouraged PC makers from

loading non-Microsoft operating systems.

A remaining question is whether the decree will cover Microsoft's Windows NT. The accord explicitly states that it covers Windows 3.1 and its successors (such as Windows 95), but not Windows NT. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington said it is logical to assume that if Windows NT does become a successor to Windows 3.1, it will be covered.

The Washington-based Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) argued that Windows NT is already viewed as a successor in the corporate market, but Jackson dismissed the trade group from the case and didn't rule on its motion to add NT to the decree.

Microsoft spokesman Greg Shaw in Redmond, Wash., said, "NT is not being marketed as a successor, so it's clearly not a covered product under the consent decree." Yet Microsoft has said Windows 95 is a short-term product that will eventually giveway to Windows NT.

Jackson's signature ended an antitrust battle that was anything but short and sweet. After four years of investigations, the Department of Justice and Microsoft reached a settlement last July, but it was rejected by federal Judge Stanley Sporkin as "too little, too late."

An appeals court booted Sporkin from the case for apparent bias and sent the decree back to the district court to be signed. Jackson, who was selected by random drawing, had no choice but to approve the deal.

Government funds 21 research projects

By Gary H. Anthes

■ Magnetic tape moving at a mile per minute, the Library of Congress on a desktop and 1T-byte optical discs are among the goals of six research projects funded recently by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The awards were made to high-risk ventures as part of the government's controversial Advanced Technology Program (ATP), which Republicans in Congress have piedged to scuttle [CW, Aug. 7]. The Commerce Department announced 21 new ATP projects, six of them dealing with data storage technologies. The projects are funded by \$71 million in federal grants and \$67 million in matching corporate dollars.

The projects are geared toward developing technologies able to record data up to a thousand times faster and at a lower cost than is now possible. The research is driven by the emergence of data-hungry applications such as video-on-demand and networked medical systems, a grant recipient said.

"This is interesting stuff, and stuff that needs to be done in order to move forward from a technological standpoint," said Michael Sutton, president of Washington Systems Consulting, Inc. in Gaithersburg, Md.

However, Sutton joined Republicans in questioning the government's role in fostering end-use technology. "It is interesting to us that the government would single out some of these companies to give them fairly serious money when there are other companies that have pioneered these ef-

Super storage

In one of the projects, a group of companies led by Ter-

abank Systems, Inc. in Campbell, Calif., will match \$11.5 million in federal
funds over five years to build a prototype 20T-byte desktop storage device,
initially for NASA. NASA would use the
units as compact, low-cost devices to
store huge amounts of data from space
probes, said Don Dempsey, president
of Terabank.

The units are expected to cost less than \$100,000. They would use erasable optical tape, which is a very highspeed tape transport system, and laser arrays able to access data at 100M bit/sec.

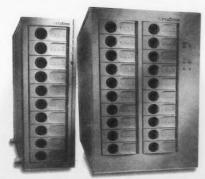
Joseph King, head of the National Space Science Data Center at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., said the devices would give space scientists quick access to terabytes of desktop data. Currently, those scientists must get data via wide-area networks from huge jukebox systems at a few central data repositories, a process that is slower and more costly, King said.

STORAGE

Observers agreed that the projects are risky. "Some of this stuff is pie-in-the-sky. A lot of it will never happen," said Jim Porter, president of Disk/Trend, Inc., a market research firm in Mountain View, Calif.

Porter said some of the hoped-for advances in data storage technology may be rendered unimportant by advances in conventional magnetic disk recording technology. Recording densities are increasing at 60% a year and seem likely to continue at that rate for five to 10 years, he noted.

A spokesman at the Commerce Department said first-year funding for the ATP projects is assured, but their fate in subsequent years depends on congressional action this fall. Recently, the House of Representatives eliminated all fiscal year 1996 funding for the \$341 million ATP, but the Senate has yet to take action on it.



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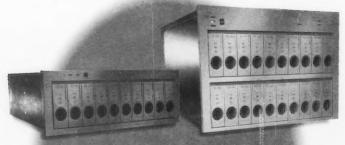




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Editoria

Win 95 explained

Now that you've got your shrink-wrapped copy of Windows 95, you should become familiar with the new terms you'll encounter as you enter the PC's next generation.

Here's a selected glossary:

- Windows 95 The culmination of an 11-year effort by the PC industry to clone the Macintosh.
- 32-bit The approximate amount of space remaining on a 100M-byte hard disk after Windows 95 is installed.
- Eight.three File-naming convention on MS-DOS, replaced by Windows 95 feature that allows files to have easy-to-remember names like Letter_to_mom_about_why_I_cannot_come_ over_Sunday_for_dinner.
- Multitasking The ability to run multiple programs at once, making it much easier to pinpoint which one just crashed your system.
- Start button The Windows 95 version of C:\>.
- Network Neighborhood Windows 95's term for the col-

lection of computers in your office that can now more easily create and exchange multiple, differing versions of the same data.

- "My computer" What your PC was before you connected it to the Network Neighborhood.
- Upgrade Software industry term for the process of selling a user the same word processor for the fifth time.
- Windows NT Microsoft code name for Windows 98.
- Maintenance release Computer industry term for software released about six months after shipment of the original product that does what the original product was supposed to do.
- \bullet Single Inline Memory Module (SIMM) Spider-like computer chip used to add RAM to a computer. Become familiar with SIMMs. You will buy them by the bucket.
- The Microsoft Network (MSN) On-line service owned by Windows 95's developer and offered automatically to every Windows 95 user and which is in no way monopolistic or has any unfair advantage over any other on-line service by virtue of being right on your screen all the time. Honest.



Internet: paul gillin@cw.com



Letters to the editor

Software piracy: Cheers, jeers and tales from the front

You express shock at the brazenness of the illegal resellers and the volume of the piracy business [CW, July 24]. I am astonished at your astonishment. Where have you been for the past 15 years?

Bill Laberis' editorial laments, "this amusing tale ... would be just that —a nice yarn — if it didn't cost the companies that wrote the software ... billions of dollars per year." I find this sentiment genuinely laughable, considering that on page 32 of the same issue, you report record quarterly gains for the computer industry. Software companies are not being hurt by piracy. Is anyone bothered that Microsoft isn't making quite as much money as it might were piracy miraculously curtailed?

Piracy exists because legitimate licenses are expensive—beyond the means of most people overseas and beyond the means of many people here in the U.S. That's why piracy also flourishes here at home. Domestic piracy can't be controlled, so what makes anyone believe that the slightest dent can be made in the practice overseas?

By the way, would Windows be where it is today if it wasn't copied freely, like its predecessor, DOS? Mike Batchelor

Arnold, Md. http://www.clark.net/pub/mikebat/mikebat@clark.net

The software copyright situation ironically continues a historical trend: A century ago, the U.S. was one of the worst thieves of intellectual property. Developing countries tend to misappropriate the technology of more advanced na-

tions as part of their economic development. The solution, as you described, involves governmentto-government negotiations because private enforcement is often impractical or impossible.

A licensing system would be more effective. Payment could be made on a government-to-government basis. Upon [sale of the licensed copies], the proceeds, less actual expenses, would be repaid to the vendor-victims.

ILS convictor wavers eringe of

U.S. copyright owners cringe at the thought of compulsory licensing, which undercuts ownership and control provisions of national and international copyright law. But at some point, realities of the international marketplace must intrude. Laws can protect "value" but not abstract morality.

Robert W. Dibert Floyds Knobs, Ind. RDibertN@counsel.com

No real loss

The SPA and Computerworld should stop crying about soft-ware piracy in Russia. If the average Russian makes \$160 a month, how can anyone claim to have lost money if he buys a couple of bootleg programs? What money was lost? There is zero chance that the Russian would have bought the soft-ware through legitimate channels, because he doesn't have the money.

Bill Guenthner Shephardsville, Ky. BGuen@aol.com On the front page of your July 31 issue you included a pull quote from your Novell story that states, "Some ingenious users have managed to inveigle 'bootlegged' copies" of the NetWare requester ["Novell on target to ship Win 95 requester"]. But you have a separate article on the same page regarding rampant software piracy.

Are we saying it's "ingenious" to "bootleg" prerelease copies of software but illegal to do so with released software? It's probably the same people doing both.

Mark A. Nadig Fort Collins, Colo. 74250.1500@compuserve.com

Software piracy should be a major concern for all of us in the legitimate information systems field. Our IS departments support and enable our companies as they compete with others around the globe. Some competitors reduce their costs relative to ours by using pirated software. They implement systems we can't implement because we can't fit them in the budget. It isn't just software vendors that are the victims of piracy.

David M. Weaver MicroGenics Concord, Calif. dmweaver@mercury.sfsu.edu More letters, page 40

■Computerworld welcomes comments from its readers. Letters should not exceed 200 words and should be addressed to Bill Laberis, Editor in Chief, Computerworld, P.O. Box 9171, 500 Old Connecticut Path, Framingham, Mass. 01701. Fax number: (508) 875-8931; Internet: letters@cw.com. Please include an address and phone number for verification.

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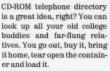
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CD-ROMs: Glitzy and wrong

David Michael Bernard



Then you do the first thing that comes to your normally self-centered mind - look for your own

Bummer.

name.

At this point, many people are shocked to discover that they do not exist or still live with their parents or that there is some other error in their listing.

Here is an example of state-of-the-art technology that bombed out. Many people are so misled by the technosleek image of CD-ROMs that they figure the information on that gleaming disc is as good or better than in the book. The fact is, it's as good or worse.

A major reason for the inaccurate and incomplete data is that the original source of the information — the local telephone companies that rule the world of telephone numbers — is not involved in the CD-ROM directories.

Not that the CD-ROM makers don't try hard they do. One gets data-entry clerks in China to input the data from telephone books and



Those technosleek CD-ROMs aren't as accurate, speedy or durable as end users may

uses multiple accuracy controls. But the telephone book is outdated by the time it is published

Correctness also depends on the method and timeliness of distribution. At best, the CD-ROM is as accurate as the phone book, which is just a snapshot of data that changes daily. At worst, the CD-ROM version may be a year behind the phone book.

The same criticism applies to CD-ROMs that dispense legal or medical advice; they are not necessarily any more complete or accurate than the latest book on the subject.

For data that is constantly changing (such as telephone directory data), on-line access to a database (What a concept!) is the only means of distribution that maintains its integrity.

CD-ROMs are all the rage now. You can find them anywhere, from Barnes and Noble to your local video store. They have a high-tech image that sells, but they are still a static medium that is only as good as those who put it together.

Then there is the speed issue. Take this test: With a PC and CD-ROM on your left and a phone book on your right, see which one allows you to find an entry faster. I'm fast with the CD-ROM software, but I'm even faster with the book.

Besides, you can't put a hot cup of coffee down on a CD-ROM like you can on an oldfashioned phone book.

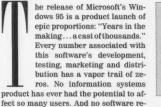
There is a misconception that CD-ROMs last longer and are more durable than other media. While that's a valid assumption when comparing audio CDs with vinyl records, it doesn't hold true for heavily used CD-ROMs. CD-ROMs are consumable; I have witnessed the demise of several over a short period of time.

So remember that CD-ROMs are great for static reference works, but they have their limitations. They don't last forever, and they don't necessarily have the best information. If you need medical advice, call your doctor. Don't call CompUSA.

Bernard is a corporate IS director, entrepreneur and consultant in New York. His Internet address is davidbernard@attmail.com.

Marketing triumph, technical yawn

Max D. Hopper



lease has ever aroused so much competitive opposition nor been so beleaguered by bureaucratic intervention.

One question worth pondering is how Windows 95 will weigh in as an IS milestone in the annals of computerdom a decade or two hence. In an industry as young as ours, it may be naive to speculate on historical significance and even riskier to attempt a future perspective. Still, it's interesting to reflect on the probable role of Windows 95 in any IS hall of fame.

In the category for genuine breakthroughs in technology, I don't think Windows 95 is a serious contender for top honors. I would award that position to IBM's System 360, which was introduced in 1964. For its time, I believe, this mainframe system represented a revolutionary departure from the past. In terms of its radically new emitter-coupled logic circuitry, its operating system and its integrated approach



The hype is great, but historians won't be putting Windows 95 in the technology hall of fame.

to a complete family of large and small computers, it presented unprecedented new capabilities that changed the course of computing. The 360 series was a triumph of technology.

Nor could Windows 95 be described as a breakthrough product in terms of usability. It builds on the previous version of Windows, which in many respects was a somewhat flawed version of the graphical user interface popularized by the Macintosh in 1984. In that sense, the ease-of-use honors would have to go to Apple with an acknowledgement to the pioneering Xerox Star GUI, which inspired both the Macintosh and Next Computer systems. These products, whatever their market success, were triumphs of user friendliness that paved the way for broad consumer acceptance of the PC. In fact, if any of these companies had marketed their operating systems independent of the boxes they came in, they may have

preempted Microsoft's success.

If Windows 95 is accorded a place in the IS pantheon, I believe it will be as a marketing triumph. Marketing has long been Bill Gates's genius and is fundamental to his company's phenomenal success. Surely this new operating system will provide extended capabilities to current Windows users and perhaps surpass the edge that Macintosh and OS/2 users have enjoyed. Whether it will help Microsoft ex-

tend its present market share remains to be seen, but the inertia of a massive installed base is on its side

Let's give Microsoft credit, though, for having generated that inertia on its own corporate steam. No company has been better at driving IS products into the marketplace and achieving acceptance by tens of millions. No company in our industry is more skilled in managing the marketing and distribution issues of doing business on this unprecedented scale.

Will it fulfill the considerable expectations it has generated? Only time will tell. Will Windows 95 be surpassed by even more capable products? Of course it will. The question is, who will build them? Perhaps Netscape?

Hopper, former chairman of AMR Corp.'s The Sabre Group, is principal of The Max D. Hopper Associates This yard with **NO fences**brought to you by new Microsoft Office



Microsoft WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO TODAY!

Announcing new Microsoft Office for Windows 95.
Software that doesn't hold you back. Software that presents fewer obstacles.

Five integrated applications, one entirely new approach to the way they work. It's not merely an "upgrade." It's not just about new features and new buttons.

It's about easier, more intuitive access to capabilities old and new.

Software that speaks your language, that answers your questions.

Now you have a suite of productivity programs designed to take advantage of Windows 95.

Programs that let you focus on your work, not on your software.



Americans themselves fuel the pirate trade

I am a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and spent one tour in South Korea in 1990. In the shopping areas around most U.S. bases, you could find stores that sold pirated software [In Depth, CW, July 24]. Most of it was sold to these stores by American service personnel.

These stores stay in business because of Americans out to make a quick buck by selling software stolen or copied from base agencies, homes or friends. The prices were relatively low, and if you needed a manual, no problem; they had copies of them, too.

Software piracy will be hard to stop. As long as there are greedy people out to make an extra buck selling pirated software, there will be people to buy it.

D.S. Weir PC analyst Chicago 74750.201@compuserve.com

What an efficient marketing strategy. Instead of paying to distribute free soft-

ware to gain market share like America

Online does, software makers have

someone doing it for free. Pirated soft-

ups or private users, and mainly for evaluation or learning. Customers in Eastern Europe are very brand-sensitive—when they get resources to buy the legitimate copy, they do. The legitimate copy is then proudly displayed to send a message to the customer: "Look, we are a stable, profitable company."

ware is bought mostly by students, start-

If I am competing with Microsoft and my software is not being pirated in China, my investors should start to worry.

Vendors compromise by attaching enough negative stigma about stolen intellectual property so that only the economically desperate will use the stolen goods. But at the same time, they don't stop this free technique to gain market share through the use of effective copy protection or encryption.

Jiri Janecek Snohomish, Wash. janecek@halcyon.com

The articles on pirated software were most interesting. I especially liked the comment about unreconstructed Bolsheviks loving Microsoft Word 6.0. Word 6.0's performance reminds me of a Soviet ministry cranking up to meet a five-year goal.

However, I take exception to your editorial statement that "(Clinton) and his minions at the Commerce and State Departments sit idle while the Chinese, who have a \$15 billion trade surplus with the U.S., allow software piracy to go on unchecked."

First of all, President Bush also was "idle" while the Chinese ran tanks over protesters, produced goods in prisons, pirated software and ran up a big surplus. Second, Clinton hasn't been "idle" at all. Don't you recall State Secretary Warren Christopher's trip to Beijing and the deliberate insult by their government?

But finally, the truth is business wants Clinton to do exactly what he is doing. Other industries that want to sell in China are very nervous about anything that ripples the trade waters. Clinton is an easy target, but put the bulk of the blame where it belongs: in corporate America.

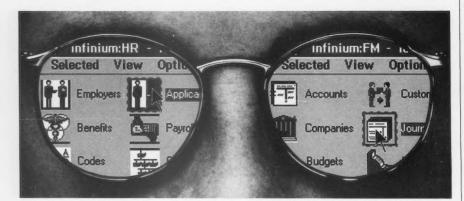
Jim Mork Minneapolis 72120.370@compuserve.com>

An investment in prevention

I know how software companies could reduce piracy in developing companies: Open up shop in the countries that are pirating software, hire local programmers to port the software to local languages, provide the same level of support as they do in the U.S. and Europe, invest in the local economies and make it possible for people to afford the software they can't afford now.

James Lewis Moss Columbia, S.C. moss@cs.sc.edu

Software that gets to the point. And clicks.



eliminate the cumbersome steps required in traditional business applications.

Users can quickly identify, access and analyze specific information using simple point-and-click, drag-and-drop PC techniques.

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Together, they provide the best return on your client/server investment.

All pointing to software that clicks. For everyone concerned.

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Software 2000

Advanced, manageable client/server applications. Not just another pretty GU



You'll never see client/server the same way again.



Inside:

- An essay on the role of financials in the client/server revolution
- User case studies from four cutting-edge companies

Setting new sights on client/server financials.

It's a story heard in corporate boardrooms around the world: Move to a new information distribution system, or move out

of business. For some time, the answer has been to move off the mainframe and on

to client/server solutions. But for all client/server's promises of a new computing paradigm, it seemed that only the top tier of companies with the clout to drive development and the capital to invest could afford the shift.

All that is changing. In this special supple-

ment, you'll read about how client/server has come down to earth in the form of affordable, accessible solutions from Microsoft, Platinum Software, Compaq and Intel.

Starting with the essay on client/server's cutting-edge technology, you'll see how client/server solutions are becoming more accessi-

ble for more businesses. And in four case studies, you'll see how companies like yours are using these solutions to affect deep and lasting change in their financial systems, and across their businesses. Whether you plan to migrate now or in the future, their stories will

change the way you see client/server.

PLATINUM'
The Financial Software Company

Client/Server Visions and Realities

by Cheryl Currid

Is client/server computing ready to take over the world of financial applications? After years of debate and false starts, there are clear trends in both technology and market acceptance that make the transformation to client/server inevitable. For mid-to-large sized organizations, the choice isn't whether to move to client/server, but when—before or after your competitor.

Industry analysts and researchers show surprising uniformity in their judgment of client/server acceptance. Analysts from Forrester Research claim that about 65 percent of Fortune 1000 companies are implementing some form of client/server application today, up from 30 percent in 1990.

Results from researchers conducting International Data Corp. 8 (IDCs) 1995 Global IT Survey concur. Over 60 percent of the respondents said they have, or were planning to move to, client/server solutions

And, researchers at Dataquest, Inc., expect the client/ server market to rise at twice the rate of the overall computer systems market during the next four years. Dataquest predicts sales of servers will double in the next three years to reach an annual rate of over 315,000 units worldwide.

What's fucling the move to client/server computing? According to Currid & Company analysis, client/server platforms make sense in a business world where people need flexible access to information. The old method of providing pre-formatted batch reporting doesn't satisfy the needs of increasingly sophisticated users or competitive industries. It doesn't put decision-making information into the hands of the right people.

Further, the re-engineering rage of the past few years also caused business managers to question every practice, from the methods used to answer accounting questions to how the phone is answered. If a computer system can't provide answers to new management questions, it moves to the top of the replacement list.

Surveys of IS professionals show that accounting applications are the first choice for initial client/server implementation. Forrester interviews with senior IS managers revealed that 84 percent expect to implement client/server applications in the financial and manufacturing area within three years. Of those moving to client/server, 43 percent will purchase application packages rather than build their own. IDCs analysis agrees. It names accounting as the leading segment among enterprise applications for client/server deployment.

Why? Accounting and financial applications truly span enterprise information needs and provide critical information to executives. In fact, as much as 85 percent of information analyzed by executives is financial.

Further, senior finance professionals are keen to share financial data among executives in an effort to guide overall business strategy. A recent IDC survey showed that the top three responsibilities for financial professionals were to improve:

- Timing and availability of financial information
- Integration of financial and nonfinancial data
- Financial services to operations managers.

Clearly, it is easy to demonstrate the need and desire to move accounting and financial applications to a flexible computing platform. Client/server architecture fills the bill with built-in capabilities that allow it to work with a variety of data analysis tools.

Build versus buy

Custom-developed computing applications are giving way to purchased packaged software. According to IDC, sales of packaged client/server applications are soaring as customers move toward plug-in solutions IDC expects packaged client/server applications to continue as the industry's largest and lastest growing segment, with a predicted 30 percent compounded annual growth rate through 1999.

The decision to buy rather than build client/server accounting applications is easy to make. Financial and IS managers cite four primary reasons:

- · In-house capabilities
- The need for quick deployment
- · The use of standard approaches
- · Overall cost of ownership issues

Many organizations lack the inhouse knowledge of client/server tools necessary to embark on extensive custom development While client/server technology has become more sophisticated and easier to learn, in-house programmers must scale a significant learning curve. It takes a

good programmer six months to a year to fully analyze data and application requirements and then learn all the nuances of a full fledged application development tool

ti is easy to demonstrate the need and desire to move accounting and financial applications to a flexible computing platform. Client/server architecture fills the bill with built-in capabilities that allow it to work with a variety of data analysis tools. 22

These steps are unnecessary when packages that provide highly customized features are available.

Further, since pressing business needs require quick action, there's no time to custom-craft accounting applications. Packaged software can be implemented within

a window of two to six months. Conversely, custom-created software generally takes a great deal of time to create, test, debug and implement.

Finally, most organizations are pleased to learn the extent to which packaged solutions can be customized. Using technology tools such as Microsoft Excel and Access, companies can tailor a good fit between their business practices and packaged software. Moreover, by leveraging advanced reporting capabilities and common desktop productivity tools, they can easily respond to changing business needs.

Technology gains

The changing mix of computing hardware, robust operating systems and packaged software has made the move to client/server an attractive option. Rather than trying to retool existing legacy systems, business-minded managers find it easier to buy low-cost—but advanced—hardware.

Today's solutions, based on massmarketed hardware such as Intel microprocessor-based servers—and robust operating systems, such as Microsoft's Windows NT—create options that were neither available nor economically viable three years ago.

Sophisticated operating environments have created a simplified approach for computing. For example, Microsoft BackOffice for Windows NT seamlessly links Windows-based desktops to corporate information, regardless of location or original format. Clearly, powerful tools that manage the desktop-to-server environment are available.

Changes in a company's options for client/server technology center around advances in both technology and user acceptance. Tumbling technology

prices provide yet another strong incentive for making a move. For example, since 1991 the costs associated with processing, storing and sharing data have plummeted.

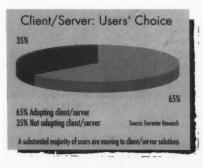
The cost to perform one million instructions per second (MIPS) has decreased from \$93 in 1991 to \$20 in 1995. Similarly, the cost to store a megabyte of data has plunged from \$7.28 in 1991 to less than 34 cents today, according to Dataquest. Sharing or distributing data via a modem also has dropped exponentially, from \$1 per megabyte in 1991 to about 18 cents in 1995.

Although the declining cost of raw computing power is always welcomed, two other factors have emerged to make microprocessor-based technology attractive for mission-critical computing applications. These are manageability and scalability.

Today, hardware makers are using sophisticated techniques to make low-cost servers more manageable. Rather than simply turning a PC on its side and calling it a server, some manufacturers are building in advanced fault management capabilities. These include monitoring and reporting features, redundant servers, backup servers and fault-tolerant drive arrays.

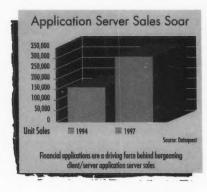
Compaq,* for example, pioneered technology that watches over key server components and alerts a system operator if an unusual condition exists. These servers can actually report on problems before the problem ever interrupts service to users. Such features are new to the microprocessor-based server world and were unavailable to all but expensive minicomputers 10 years ago.

Another attractive feature of new-generation servers is pre-configuration. Some servers come with easy-to-use utilities that both load and optimize operating systems and databases. These options allay concerns about buying new technology because they lead to plug-and-play solutions.



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Scalability is another important factor in the server equation. Scalability ensures that technology solutions won't run out of gas if something changes. Today's servers and operating systems, such as Compaq ProLiant' and Microsoft Windows NT, offer the ability to grow with the needs of a business. They can support multiple processors, large amounts of disk storage and large numbers of users without changing the overall infrastructure. With this kind of scalability, if a company's needs change radically, the company doesn't have to obsolete or change its core technology platform.



Developing trends

There's no doubt that the combined forces of business pressures and available technology make a compelling case for client/server solutions. Few organizations can tolerate systems that don't do the job or provide effective management information.

Today's options, including ready-to-use software, plugand-play hardware and robust and bulletproof operating systems, can ease the adoption hurdles. These options allow organizations to move quickly toward the resolution of nagging issues caused by legacy systems.

Currid & Company expects that the market for application servers will accelerate throughout the balance of the decade. Although they currently constitute an estimated 20 percent of server sales, we project that application servers will account for 50 percent over the next three to five years. Packaged software will also continue to emerge as the preferred method for companies deploying core business applications, such as accounting and manufacturing. Companies will gain competitive advantages by strategically using the information from these systems—not by creating custom data processing applications.

VARs (value added resellers) will play a key role in the transformation to client/server solutions. According to a recently published Gallup poll, 26.8 percent of companies surveyed already use the services of VARs for help with client/server applications. Currid & Company believes that percentage could rise to about 40 percent or more as VARs add value with specific expertise in technology integration plus techniques for setting up software to best support the business.

The dramatic price/performance capabilities of technology, coupled with features that make servers nearly self-managing, will continue to produce convincing reasons for firms to retire old legacy systems. Mid-sized organizations could be the quickest to accept new technology. These organizations generally have fewer intertwined legacy systems and can make technology investment decisions faster.

Is client/server computing ready to take over the world of financial applications? For progressive organizations, the options available today create excellent opportunities for implementing more responsive business systems. The technology is ready. Business managers must now ask themselves: Are we?

About Cheryl Currid

Cheryl Currid is president of Currid & Company, a Houston-based technology analysis and advisory firm. Ms. Currid lectures internationally about how to reap the rewards from technology in business, professional and personal pursuits. Her opinions on computer industry trends are frequently quoted by leading business publications and other media, such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Reuters, Associated Press, Investors Business Daily, Forbes, Fortune, PBS, ABC News and CNBC.

When it comes to financial software that not many other companies

runs on Windows NT and SQL Server, can say this. In fact, none.

That's right. More than a hundred major companies have already selected our new client/server financial software—which makes it the number one choice on Microsoft® Windows NT™ and SQL Server.™

And for good reason. Our Platinum SQL NT gives you incredible price/performance. The flexibility you need for your business. Plus innovative, easy-to-use features like Financial Alerts. All optimized for Windows NT and SQL Server and tightly integrated with Microsoft Office and OLE 2.0.

And it's all from Platinum, the financial software company that's been the leader in technology for more than 10 years. And the only one with Windows NT and SQL Server financials. To get your financials on Platinum SQL NT, just call us at 1-800-215-5550.



Century 21 Real Estate Corporation: A remodeling job

Scribble your request on a piece of paper, tie it to a rock and throw it over the wall. That's how Lisa Kingston describes most relationships between 1S departments and their companies. At some point in the future, the answer comes back over the wall. "Maybe it's right, maybe it's not, but that's what you get," she says.

Kingston should know. As director of financial information systems for Century 21 Real Estate Corporation, she used to spend a lot of time behind the wall, trying to get answers out to the financial team. "We've broken down those barriers now," she says. "There's much more sharing of information."

One of the barriers was a 15-year-old, character-based minicomputer system with dumb terminals and custom-written software. For managers at the world headquarters in Irvine, Calif., and at the seven subsidiaries around the country, volumes of financial data were virtually inaccessible. This was a significant problem for CENTURY 21* and the CENTURY 21 system, comprising one of the world's largest real estate sales organizations, with more than 6,000

independently owned and operated offices around the globe.

Organization-wide change

In 1988, management began evaluating how the financial information system could be improved. Everyone soon realized that change was needed on an enterprise-wide basis, and managers began talking client/server.

"We investigated solutions and Microsoft was one of the leaders in client/server technology. We began a relationship with them, using the full suite of Microsoft products," says Kingston. Microsoft SQL Server was proposed as the relational database management system, ensuring compatibility with the existing applications.

CENTURY 21 also chose
Platinum SQL Enterprise from
Platinum Software Corporation
because it met two critical criteria:
it was the only complete, fully
integrated financial product with
a client/server architecture, and
it offered Microsoft compatibility.

By 1992, Platinum SQL
Enterprise was up and running
at the international headquarters
in Irvine. The production server,
a Compaq ProLiant with two
Pentium* processors, 64 MB of RAM,
and 6 GB disk space, is currently in operation. Two servers are planned for each
divisional office, and Kingston repeats
that the hardware systems have been
very reliable.

In addition, Compaq Insight Manager" has proved helpful as a proactive server management system, predicting faults and monitoring performance to prevent downtime.

Now she says, manual entry time has been dramatically reduced, and financial managers are re-engineering basic codes and procedures. They're also performing analysis on a variety of financial indicators. The client/server system has extended information beyond the financial department walls and in to other areas of the company. "The accounting staff can look at financial information and everything else it touches," Kingston says. "They don't have to log into six different systems. From their perspective, they can see much more of the world and how it affects their business needs."

Because financial managers are performing more analysis, they're also planning better strategies. "If a particular product line isn't performing to plan, we know about it sooner and we can act quickly and cut our losses, rather than taking years to make a decision," notes Kingston.



Cutting closing time in half

In addition to trimming general ledger transaction time by 30 percent, Kingston reports that closing time has been cut in half, from eight to four days: "We can also create recurring and automatic transactions so that on a monthly basis they generate themselves, instead of someone having to re-enter the same thing over and over."

Re-engineering is more than a trendy buzzword at CENTURY 21 as it moves toward a truly enterprise-wide system. "When it all fits together," Kingston says, "it's very elegant in a true sense of the word."

VITAL STATISTICS

Century 21 Real Estate Corporation

rvine, CA

MISSION

Continue outpacing global competition, which requires CENTURY 21 to distribute financial data to every level of the CENTURY 21 organization, from corporate and divisional headquarters to 6,000 independently owned and operated broker offices throughout the world.

CLIEBY/SERVER PROFILE

Platinum SQL Enterprise General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Cash Management, Inventory and Order Entry

SERVERS

Compaq ProLiant with dual Pentium processors running Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft Windows NT Server

LIEATS

A variety of Compaq desktops with Intel 60 MHz and 90 MHz Intel Pentium processors

Ceridian Corporation: No shortage of information

When you provide information services to the world, you'd better have a great plan for getting information to your own management. At Ceridian Corporation, a defense electronics and information services company, financial data used to take a slow course from the company's headquarters to the cost center managers scattered throughout the company's three business units.

The problem was the company's Cleveland-based mainframe. The McCormack & Dodge system running on the mainframe demanded some serious attention and couldn't keep pace with the company's changing requirements.

"We had to take hard-copy reports, copy them and mail them out," says Jim Furgason, corporate controller. "Managers often waited until the middle of the month before they saw reports of what happened the previous month. And it was difficult to tell what was in those numbers."

Furgason and his team provide accounting for Ceridian's corporate center and benefits accounting for three autonomous operating units: Employer Services, Arbitron and Computing Devices International. Each of the business units takes independent systems directions.



Getting it done

In 1993, the nearly \$1 billion company pushed the envelope on information access when top management announced plans to sell off the Cleveland data processing center. Suddenly, Furgason had 18 months to select, implement and train users on a new financial management system.

Furgason, along with John Leuthard, manager of external reporting and systems, opted for a move to client/server. The team standardized on Microsoft SQL Server for NT and then purchased Platinum SQL NT client/server financial applications from Platinum Software Corporation. Ceridian's corporate office went live on general ledger last January. Accounts payable followed closely behind on March 1.

The team made its deadline, but more important, Furgason reports that managers can now access financial information directly from their PCs: "With SQL NT, we can put files on the network and allow the cost center managers to drill down to the level of detail they need. They've become more active participants in managing their numbers."

Fast information access

Instead of waiting until the middle of the month, managers now access month-end reports in just two days. Leuthard says the information also is more definitive. "Before, it was difficult to tell what was in the numbers," he explains. "Now they can look in the database and get information on, for example, which bills were paid and when. So they can make better, more informed decisions."

Ceridian's corporate center has taken an integrated approach to hardware and software, with Compaq ProLiant servers based

VITAL STATISTICS Ceridian Corporation

Minneapolis, MN

MISSION

Move toward open systems after selling off data processing unit and mainframe computer. Accounting and finance operations develops a new information system within 18 months.

CLIENT/SERVER PROFILE

Platinum SQL NT General Ledger and Accounts Payable

SERVERS

Compaq ProLiant servers with dual 90 MHz Intel
Pentium processors running Microsoft SQL Server
and Microsoft Windows NT Server

CHERT

90 MHz to 120 MHz Intel Pentium processor-based desktons running Microsoft Windows for Workground

1994 REVERN

\$916 million

1994

on Intel Pentium processors. "Intel processors are as important in the clients as they are in the server," Leuthard says. "We need a lot of horsepower on the desktops, so we're running all Intel processors at our corporate center and most of the business units. In fact, everything we're buying right now is Pentium. The Compaq servers have been very reliable for us."

In addition, the system is handling heavy volumes of roughly 6,500 to 7,000 transactions per month, and up to 600 invoices in accounts payable.

To keep tabs on the servers, Ceridian uses Compaq Insight Manager on all servers, and Furgason reports that managers have been very satisfied with its monitoring capabilities.

At first, Furgason was concerned about the complex maintenance associated with the client/server environment. Now, he says the client/server financial system provides a new flexibility for Ceridian's corporate center. According to him, "We control our schedules now, and we're more responsive than ever."

Nobel Insurance: A plan for success

Wally Schlaegel knows his business all seven of them. As vice president of accounting for Nobel Insurance Corporation, Schlaegel and the other company managers can quickly access financial information for any of Nobel's seven operating units, including a Bermuda parent company But that wasn't always the case.

"We were running general ledger on an AS/400 and a LAN-based accounts payable system, from which we issued quarterly financial statements." he notes. "With all those companies and all the manual processing we were doing, it would have been impossible to go monthly." But waiting until August to get June's results was a stumbling block for managers who needed to act on those numbers. So the charge toward a new computing system—and faster information access—was on

To empower managers at the world headquarters in Dallas and at the various companies, Nobel's management began searching for powerful end-user database querying tools, says systems manager

Paul Kessler. "We knew that client/server was the way to go," he states.

The company, which has \$50 million in annual revenues, was already following the Microsoft path, having recently standardized on Microsoft Office. Kessler says that narrowing the field of solutions was relatively easy since Platinum SQL NT from Platinum Software Corporation was the only client/server financial application based on Microsoft SQL Server and Windows NT.

The two-month countdown

After selecting Platinum SQL NT Accounts Payable and General Ledger for all seven Nobel companies, the team also brought in Compaq hardware powered by Intel Pentium processors. After an almost-tecord-breaking two-month implementation, the system went live in January, with the first accounts payable run. "We were able to do it in that timeframe," Schlaegel says, "because everyone was committed to the project. The most important thing we did was draw up our responsibility centers and our product centers. Once we did that, the chart of accounts was relatively easy."

Besides monthly financial reporting, the system neatly handles the intricacies of seven different operations. "We needed the ability to do domestic consolidation and carry that into foreign consolidation," says Schlaegel. "Because we have so many companies, we have a lot of intercompany transactions. Platinum offered the ability to do both."

Seven companies also require seven times the input, but Schlaegel estimates that the company has cut down manual entry time significantly: "Instead of setting up the vendors and accounts

Dallas, TX MISSION Increase access to financial information, perform efficient consolidations for seven companies and integrate the general ledges system. ELERI SEVER PAPEL Platinum SQL NT General Ledger and Accounts Payable SENVERS Compaq ProLiam with day 19 MHz Intel Pentium processors with 12 GB Level S RAID array running Microsoft SQL Server CLIFITS

VITAL STATISTICS

Nobel Insurance

Microsoft Windows NT running on 90 MHz Intel Pentium processor-based workstations

1994 CHIGHLIMIEN AFFUNES

50 million

1594 (03 OPT AN ING BUDGE (opprox.) \$1.6 million

TABLE DE STATE DE DECE

1004 CLHOT/BERVER ENPERDITIMES 1131,000

seven times for each of the seven companies, we set it up one time, and the other companies can access it."

Power to the users

Coming off the AS/400, performance degradation was a big concern. But with the Compaq ProLiant server running on two Intel Pentium 90 MHz processors, Kessler isn't worried. As he puts it, "With this much power, we're spoiling our accounting groups."

In addition to the Microsoft SQL Server 4.2 database and Windows NT workstations, Nobel's network also is strictly Windows NT. "You can't go wrong with Microsoft," Kessler says. "They're pointing the direction for the industry."

Pointing the way to Nobel's future is a new drive toward a completely automated general ledger system, linked to a client/server premiums and claims processing application. "We've made a lot of strides," says Schlaegel, "and we're very excited about what's still ahead."



University of Virginia Health Services Foundation: New treatment for an outdated system

When Ruth Clowater and the finance staff at the University of Virginia's Health Services Foundation used to talk accounting tools, they were talking spreadsheets and highlighting pens.

"We did things the hard way," Clowater says. "We had to run huge reports, search them and use a highlighter for the one line we needed."

Clowater heads one of the Foundation's two accounting departments. The accounting systems for these two departments must communicate with each other and also with the university's massive accounting system. "We get a 6,000line transaction from the university every month," she says. "It used to be a sixinch-thick stack of paper that we had to record manually. And we could only provide information in summary form."

When Clowater arrived at the Foundation three years ago, she found an eight-year-old LAN system. The system, which started on a standalone PC, had expanded to a 200 MB database running on a LAN. "The system was crashing every week, and I would spend hours restoring the database." Because the proprietary database often was corrupted, Clowater was forced to rely on outside

Finding a new accounting system for the Foundation wasn't easy. "I didn't find anything that seemed right," she says. "I was concerned about outgrowing Btrieve products, and the big systems couldn't give us what we needed. They were also cost prohibitive."

Small price for power

Clowater attended a client/server seminar held jointly by Microsoft and Platinum Software Corporation. "I had been looking at client/server systems and Platinum seemed to be the leader," she notes. "There really wasn't anything else to compare it to. It had the technology and power of a much higher end system, but because it was written for Microsoft SQL Server and Windows NT, I got a really powerful solution at a relatively affordable price."

Following a complete accounting overhaul, the client/server General Ledger system went live on July 1, 1994. Clowater credits the consultants with the smooth implementation: "You have to work with someone who knows client/server, and that's what IPC Technologies, an independent consulting firm in Richmond, VA, did for us."

She has high praise for Microsoft NT and SQL Server, as well. According to her, "I get a lot of information and I can control what users have access to. It's also very intuitive because it's GUI, so there's no need to know a long string of code. I can sit here at my desk and control most server functions without making a trip to the computer room. With SQL Server's dump files, the system backs up and dumps to another file, which is very

easy to restore if necessary. Users can still stay in the system while I'm backing up,



Charlottesville, VA

MISSH

Update a decade-old LAN accounting system and provide detailed financial information to three seconds accounting systems

DEST/SERVIS PROFILE

Platinum SQL NT General Ledger and Accounts Payable

SERVERS

Compaq ProLiant with dual Intel Pentium processors running Microsoft SQL Server

CLIERT

Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups running of PCs with the Intel 486" and Pentium processors

so it doesn't interrupt their daily routines, and it only takes about eight minutes to do a 200 MB database."

Hardware that helps you sleep

She doesn't have to worry about hardware anymore, either, with the Pentium processor-based Compaq ProLiant. "The hot-pluggable drives mean that if we have a hard drive failure, we won't have to tear the box apart. You just flip open the front door, push a button and pull the drive out. Then you stick a new one in and it rebuilds the data on its own. Tve never had to try it, but we have mission-critical software and we can't afford downtime. I sleep at night knowing it's there."

Most important, Clowater and her staff have thrown away the highlighters and are spending more time providing analytic reports and better service to the Foundation. The 6,000-line transaction from the university is available with the click of an icon, providing financial statement users with more detail than they ever imagined.

"A system is only as good as the information you can get out of it," Clowater says, "and we're providing financial managers with the details they want, anytime they want."



consultants to repair it. By the time she converted the system, it was in danger of complete arrest.



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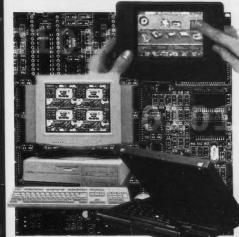
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MAG



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NEC BRINGS MULTIMEDIA TO BUSINESSES, 44 MACWORLD NEWS, 49

Desktop Computing

Cramming for Win 95

By Jaikumar Vijayan

ome users are starting to lay the hardware groundwork for upgrading to Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 - or even to other operating systems such as Windows for Workgroups

For most shops, the overwhelming need will be for more memory and disk space. storage Analysts estimate that a major-

ity of the installed corporate base has only about 4M bytes of RAM on their desktops and roughly 120M bytes of hard disk space.

Most observers say 8M bytes of RAM is the minimum requirement for Windows 95. The amount of hard disk space required depends on the number of applications and whether the PCs are networked or standalone systems

But upgrading from 4M to 8M bytes will be a time-consuming and costly affair and will cause some users to stagger their up-

grade costs over a period of time. Costs for upgrading from 4M to 8M bytes of RAM are roughly \$150 to \$180 per PC.

> 'We have over 1,300 PCs, and the cost of upgrading all of them is probably not worth the

trouble of moving to Windows 95," said Frank Curley, assistant vice president at Astoria Federal Savings in Lake Success, N.Y.

The bank recently upgraded its desktop PC base to a standard 8M-byte RAM configuration. So instead of upgrading everyone again, the bank will identify users who require additional memory and storage and upgrade only those systems when the time comes to migrate to Windows 95 sometime next year, Curley said.

Astoria Federal will increase its PCs' memory capacities with standard SIMMS (RAM chips) from the bank's primary vendors. Any additional disk storage requirements imposed by Windows 95 are unlikely to have an impact because most applications will be migrated to networked servers anyway, he

Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston is already upgrading its hardware - but not for Windows 95. Instead, the hospital is switching over to Windows for Workgroups, said Jim Marra, a senior consultant in strategic technology assessment.

Midlife kickers for one-half to two-thirds of the hospital's

Moving on up In preparing for Windows 95, users are considering the following:

- Buying new 486- or Pentium-based systems
- Upgrading or overclocking
- · Adding memory
- . Upgrading motherboards
- · Adding disk space

4,500 PCs include clock-doubling systems that have 25- and 33-MHz processors to make

them run faster, pumping up memory to between 12M and 16M bytes of RAM and boosting hard disk capacity from 120M to at least 420M bytes.

Anticipation

"It's definitely going to be a 1996 decision," said Fred Deboer, director of network services at Advanced Technology Laboratories in Bothell, Wash. The firm estimated that it will spend between \$300,000 and \$500,000 to upgrade roughly half of the 600 or so mainly 486-based desktop PCs in the company.

That is a sentiment shared by Roger Thibodeaux, assistant vice president of information systems at the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. The com-

RAM, page 44

Microsoft's blitzkrieg

By Stuart J. Johnston

If you were a techno-dweeb who never really grew up and you ate too much ice cream before falling asleep, imagine what your dreams would be like.

How about a giant Windows 95 box sailing into Sydney Harbour in Australia with musicians and dancers? Cool, dude.





Or maybe you suddenly find yourself in Toronto, and one day a giant letter "O" appears on the top of the city's tallest building. Then every day thereafter, another letter mysteriously appears until the letters spell "Windows 95" on a banner 300 feet tall.

Or you dream you're a journalist in Poland being taken down beneath the ocean in a submarine "to show them what the

world would be like without Windows

Or you snap on the TV in the Philip pines and see the president, Fidel Ramos, receiving the first copy of Windows 95.

But wait, this is no dream. These are all events Microsoft Corp. will undertake as part of its worldwide launch of Windows 95.



In fact, as Microsoft rolled out its new desktop operating system last week - with a huge circus event on its Redmond. Wash., campus and satellite downlinks to 40 cities - the hype

and hoopla were intense:

• In New Zealand, TV stations carried live the sale of the first copy of Windows 95 at midnight on Aug. 24.

• In Paris, a Windows 95 Car from Citroen, with logos on the side, was to nick up Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates at the Paris airport and take him to an event in the Palais des Congres

In Italy, Microsoft will distribute Window 95 and Office 95 demo disks in rail-

way stations and airports. Gates will launch the product on Lake Como on a boat flying the Windows 95 flag.

Talk about a blitz.

Gateway opens floodgates for slew of Win 95 notebooks

By Jaikumar Vijayan

In the first of what promises to be a wave of similar announcements soon, Gateway 2000, Inc. recently launched what it calls a Windows 95-optimized notebook computer.

Based on the Intel Corp. Pentium 75/90-MHz chip, Gateway's

Solo multimedia notebook features active-matrix screens, modular internal CD-ROM and floppy drives, lithium ion batteries, a docking bar and a keyboard optimized for Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95. The system, which **Notebooks**

will ship next month, starts at \$3,499 (\$3,699 with CD-

ROM) and has a traveling weight of 5.6 pounds. It includes integrated stereo speakers. Soundblaster-compatible sound, jacks external speakers, microphones and headphones.

Solo's The keyboard gives users shortcuts to running Windows 95 with two additional keys one to open the Start menu

and the other to bring up a context-specific menu.

The keyboard is similar to the Windows 95 keyboard for desktop PCs.

This will definitely open the eyes of the corporate buyer to Gateway,' predicted Randal

Giusto, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

Giusto said this type of fullfledged multimedia notebook 'will not be the corporate fleetbuy, nor will it be the office tool, but more of an executive buy.'

Analysts predicted launch of Windows 95 is also likely to trigger similar announcements from other notebook vendors.

Compag Computer Corp., for instance, last week announced its new high-end Pentium-based LTE Elite 5000 series of multimedia-ready notebooks.

They will begin shipping next month, according to the com-



Gateway's Solo multimedia notebook features an active-matrix screen, Windows 95 keyboard

Win 95 install: Easy, but bumps possible

On-line help program addresses most questions

Expect network

installations to be

faster than

CD-ROM because

systems gain five

to 15 minutes by

having the Win 95

files expanded

previously by the

NetSetup

program.

By Chris DeVoney

If first impressions are important, Windows 95's setup leaves a pleasant image. Windows 95's sectesy fully ushers individual users through the extensive installation process and provides network administrators with helpful tools for single or multiseat rollouts. However, jumping the gun as a user or information systems group will ground machines on silicon shoals.

Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 is distributed in two primary packages a CD-ROM and a set of 13 diskettes. As a bonus, a bounty of auxiliary information and programs are packed onto the CD-ROM, including a tour of features, a pinball game, additional systems drivers, the Windows 95 Resources Kit in the Windows Help format and administration tools such as the network setup utility.

Using understandable dialog boxes and plenty of splashy graphics, Setup comfortably shepherds users through the maze of options that install any of the optional components. Setup detects most common equipment and correctly migrates most settings from old versions of Windows. However, some choices applicable to networks, such as locations of server-based mailboxes, can require information from in-house technicians.

Setup's on-line help answers most pertinent questions, which is critical because only three of the 120 pages in the introductory manual cover installation.

Answers to the complex issues must be found in the CD-ROM or printed version of the Windows 95 Resource Kit, a highly recommended purchase for any Windows 95 support person.

The placement of Windows 95 files, which can be installed over an existing Windows 3.1 directory or into a new directory, is a key decision. By installing Windows 95 into the same directory as the old Windows, Setup migrates all Program Man-

ager folders and icons into the new Start menu and Windows 95 can run the previously installed Windows applications. This strategy works best when you know that all needed Windows 3.1 applications are known to run correctly in the new operating system.

To create a dual-boot system, Windows 95 must be installed into a new directory. The drawback is that Windows 95 ignores all pre-existing groups and application files. Old applications must be reinstalled to work with Windows 95.

Unfortunately, Windows 95 doesn't remember settings for a computer's own shared resources. This is annoying to those whose workstation is a mini-workgroup server because such shared disk or printer resources need to be re-established manually.

Quick trick

The time spent upgrading to Windows 95 ranges from 15 to 60 minutes and depends mainly on standard system performance items. On fast Pentium computers with active disk caches, Windows 95 installed into a clean directory in 12 to 20 minutes.

Installation on several 100-MHz 486DX4s took 18 to 59 minutes. A Compate Computer Corp. Contura installing Windows 95 into a clean directory via a quiet Microsoft Windows NT network completed its task in less than 18 minutes. The longest time in the 100-MHz group (59 minutes) occurred when Windows 95 was installed into a pre-existing Windows for Workgroup 3.11 machine that supported more than 400M bytes

of application files.

Expect network installations to be faster than CD-ROM because systems gain five to 15 minutes by having the Windows 95 files expanded previously by the NetSetup program.

Windows 95 offers an arsenal of tools to network administrators. The NetSetup program on the CD-ROM conveniently decompresses and copies Windows 95 to a server for installation on other systems

or shared use between sys-

Additionally, NetSetup guides administrators into constructing scripts used by Setup to control or automate any or all of the installation options. By turning

off user input, the installation can be completely automated (except for issuing the Setup command itself).

Unfortunately, NetSetup runs only under Windows 95, not Windows NT, so files must be copied through NetSetup to any NT server via the network rather than any local CD-ROM. Also, a copy of the resource kit and a text editor are required to edit any installation script.

For IS departments, doing their homework, testing their applications and writing scripts will make the Windows 95 rollout quick and relatively painless.

DeVoney is a frequent reviewer, author and speaker on PC technology. He works in Seattle.

RAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

pany, with a fleet of around 2,500 mostly 486based PCs, has no plans to move to Windows 95.

When configuration upgrades like memory or disk drive upgrades are necessitated by new applications, the company goes in for "aftermarket upgrades, or we limp along by doing things like redirecting drives to the LAN."

Unless users are considering putting off the migration to Windows 95 until well into next year, it might make more sense to upgrade now than delay much longer, analysts said. The current dynamic RAM availability crunch could push memory prices up in

Windows 95

Though analysts recommend that users may be best served by going to their vendors for the memory and disk drive boosters, other sources include catalog vendors, resellers and third-party upgrade vendors, resellers and third-party upgrade vendors.

the next few months.

Suppliers such as Reply Corp. in San Jose, Calif., are selling upgrade kits that users can pluginto older systems. The firm provides complete Pentium motherboard-level upgrades for IBM ValuePoint and PS/2 systems and Compaq Computer Corp.'s ProLinea systems.

Others such as Autotime Corp. in Portland, Ore., specialize in recycling memory chips. For example, the company offers a product that recycles otherwise worthless old 2M-byte chips into 4M-byte modules at prices starting at roughly \$70.

NEC brings multimedia to businesses

Fills cheap PCs with features

By Jaikumar Vijayan

In what analysts perceive as an early attempt to push more robust multimedia capabillities into mainstream corporate PCs, NEC Technologies, inc. this week will announce a line of aggressively priced business PCs.

NEC's PowerMate systems will come with all the bells and whistles that were recently associated only with the multimedia consumer market. The systems will replace the company's Image series as its top-of-the-line business offering.

NEC is the first major vendor to introduce a full-featured multimedia corporate lineup and could succeed in tapping into early corporate interest in multimedia applications.

Price lure

For users, the availability of relatively low-cost corporate multimedia systems such as these — a NEC 90-MHz Pentium system starts at \$1,729 — could catalyze interest in applications such as videoconferencing and enterprisewide corporate training programs, analysts said.

"By implementing the newest and most recent technology when the cost is negligible, NEC is demonstrating the viability of these applications" in corporate environments, said Joseph Ferlazzo, an analyst at WorkGroup Tech-

The new high end

Features of NEC's PowerMate series include the following:

- Pentium processor, 90 to 133 MHz
- 16M bytes of RAM standard, expandable to 128M bytes
- 256K-byte standard second-level cache
- Full-screen, full-motion video
- · 64-bit PCI graphics
- Infrared data transfer
- Pricing starts at \$1,729

nologies, Inc. in Hampton, N.H.

At least one major NEC user agreed. Systems such as these "are perhaps not going to be our base systems, but there certainly are applications we could use it for" such as showing training videos and sharing voice and video clips companywide, said David Forfia, manag-

er of information technology services at the electric utility department for the city of Austin Texas.

NEC's systems are based on 75- to 133-MHz Intel Corp. Pentiums and include the following features:

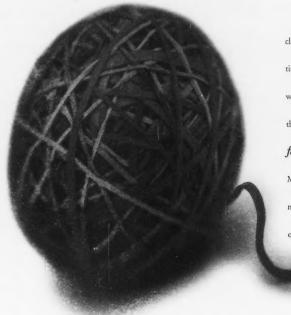
- Full-motion Motion Picture Experts Group video.
- Peripheral Component Interconnect graphics.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive and 16-bit stereo sound.
- Infrared support.
- ullet Built-in network support.

The systems will be available in 22 configurations and provide users with a choice of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 or Windows for Workgroups.

P6 plans

NEC last week said it plans to demonstrate a P6-based workstation at Comdex/Fall '95. The system, which will be aimed mainly at the compute-intensive scientific and engineering markets,

engineering markets, will have an estimated starting price of \$4,000, according to NEC.



Could make rubber band balls for instance. Or little paper clip figurines. But why on earth would you want to spend more time getting less done at work? Well, the answer is you probably wouldn't. No one would. It's just that some people may not know that you can run Windows NT applications up to three times

faster with a MIPS RISC-based system. Or that you can also use

MIPS RISC with UNIX. And that according to the TPC-C benchmarks, the top three OLTP systems use MIPS RISC. On the other hand, it may be that these people do know about all these things, and have just had trouble convincing other people. So if you find yourself in this position,

and you think it might help, you could always tell them

You could run

Windows NT without

MIPS, but there are

more imaginative

that you chose MIPS RISC because of its

exceptional price/performance

advantages. You might also tell them

that you chose MIPS RISC because

nearly a hundred companies have

adopted its architecture and it's the number

one RISC-based general purpose

processor in production today.

That usually works. But if not - if after all that,

ways of wasting time.

they still seem unsure - just remember that you still have your

imagination. And there will always be plenty of office supplies.



*Compared to a Pentium**processor-based system

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Mac users get peek at products

By Lisa Picarille

At the Macworld Exposition, held earlier this month in Boston, Apple Computer, Inc. gave users a glimpse of future system software as well as developer tools available now, while third-party developers offered up a mixed bag of products.

Apple showed off its work in progress on Copland, the next generation of the Mac OS, due out by the end of next year. It also offered previews of a new version of the operating system, due out this fall, for its Newton personal digital assistant.

The company announced it is now shipping OpenDoc Developer Release 3. Apple is expected to deliver the final version of OpenDoc, its object-based component architecture, this fall.

Now on sale

The Cupertino, Calif., firm also presented products available now. Apple teamed up with Digitool, Inc. to deliver an updated version of Macintosh Common Lisp. Version 3.0 of the programming language, which runs on the older 68040 chip, now lets multiple processes run concurrently within an application.

For developers who want to create applications that exploit the newest extensions to the Mac OS - including the ability to make three-dimensional applications with QuickDraw 3D - Apple released Issue 4 of the Mac OS software developer kit.

For their part, Macintosh multimedia developers can now find resources, services and help in creating products via Apple's Multimedia Program on the World Wide Web (www.amp.apple.com).

For Macintosh users who want to get on the Web, Apple has shipped its Apple Internet Access Kit. In it, Apple bundles Netscape Communications, Inc.'s popular Web browser software.

Apple also reaffirmed its commitment



Macworld Expo was the venue for a mixed bag of product introductions

ew products and services from Apple iclude the following:

- · A World Wide Web site of resources for
- Shipment of OpenDoc Developer Release 3 · Release of Version 3.0 of the Macintosh
- Delivery of Version 4.0 of Mac OS software developer's kit
- Release 1.5 of Newton Toolkit
- Internet Connection Kit, which includes the Netscape Web browser
- Introduction of MacX 1.5 for running X applications on a Macintosh

s from other developers inclu

- SAS Institute announced that its SAS System integrated suite of software now runs on Pov
- Linksys introduced a new Ethernet workgroup hub with transceiver for the Macintosh
- · Portrait Display Labs is shipping a 17-in. Pivot monitor
- Clone makers Power Computing and Radius cut prices on their Power MacIntosh clones

to Unix by delivering an update of MacX, which lets Macintosh users run X Window System applications. Version 1.5 of MacX supports the X standard running on a Power Macintosh.

Third-party developers also introduced a slew of products at the show.

SAS Institute, Inc. announced that a new version of its SAS System, an integrated suite of productivity software, now supports the Power Macintosh.

Networking firms also chimed in with



products. Asante Technologies, Inc. introduced a 100M bit/sec. Ethernet adapter card for Peripheral Component Interconnect-based PCs and Macintoshes. Asante has reduced by 40% the price of its Friendly/Net adapter, which offers built-in Ethernet support. Also, Linksys introduced its first Macintosh offeringan Ethernet Workgroup Hub and Trans-

In other third-party news, Portrait Display Labs, Inc. unveiled two 17-in. color multifrequency displays that combine portrait and landscape views in a single monitor. The monitor costs \$1,295.

Macworld tests Mac OS vs. Win 95

By Lisa Picarille BOSTON

■ Attendees at the recent Macworld Exposition were united by their love of the Macintosh and condemnation of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95.

T-shirt vendors hocking anti-Windows wares lined the streets leading to Boston's World Trade Center. Playing off the 1980s antidrug commercial, one T-shirt sported an Apple Computer, Inc. logo with the saying, "This is your brain." Under the Win-

brain on drugs." Other shirts offered the sentiment, "I don't do Windows." And reinforcing Apple's 60% share in the education market, still another shirt read, "Macintosh: The

dows logo it read, "This is your

power to crush other kids."

Inside the Trade Center, Apple did offer serious, side-by-side comparisons of Windows 95 vs. the current version of the Mac OS. Michael Mace, Apple's director of Macintosh platform marketing, conducted a session called "Apple Assesses the Windows 95 Challenge." The session

slammed Windows 95 for touting features - such as a trash can and long file names — that the Macintosh operating system has had for years.

Uptick expected

Joe Graziano, Apple's chief financial officer, said he expects a 20% increase in unit volume

shipments for this quarter over the previous quarter. Graziano also said he expects unit volumes to be up 50% for the December quarter, compared with the same quarter last year.

Another company with high demand for its products was Power Computer Corp. The Macintosh clone maker's products were everywhere at Macworld Exposition despite the fact that it didn't have a booth.

Radius, Inc., another Macintosh compatibles maker, said it will likely be able to deliver a system based on the Apple/ IBM Common Hardware Reference Platform (CHRP) before even Apple or IBM can get a CHRP machine to market.

But don't count on Radius' CHRP system to run Copland, Apple's next generation of the Mac OS, right off the bat.

Sources close to Apple said the Copland ship date has slipped from mid-1996 to much later in the year.

Apple is working on a version of System 7.5 that will run on CHRP in case Copland is late, according to Jim Gable, director of Mac OS licensing at Apple.





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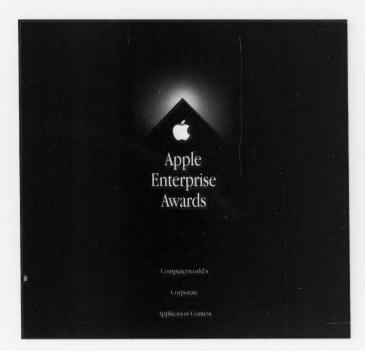
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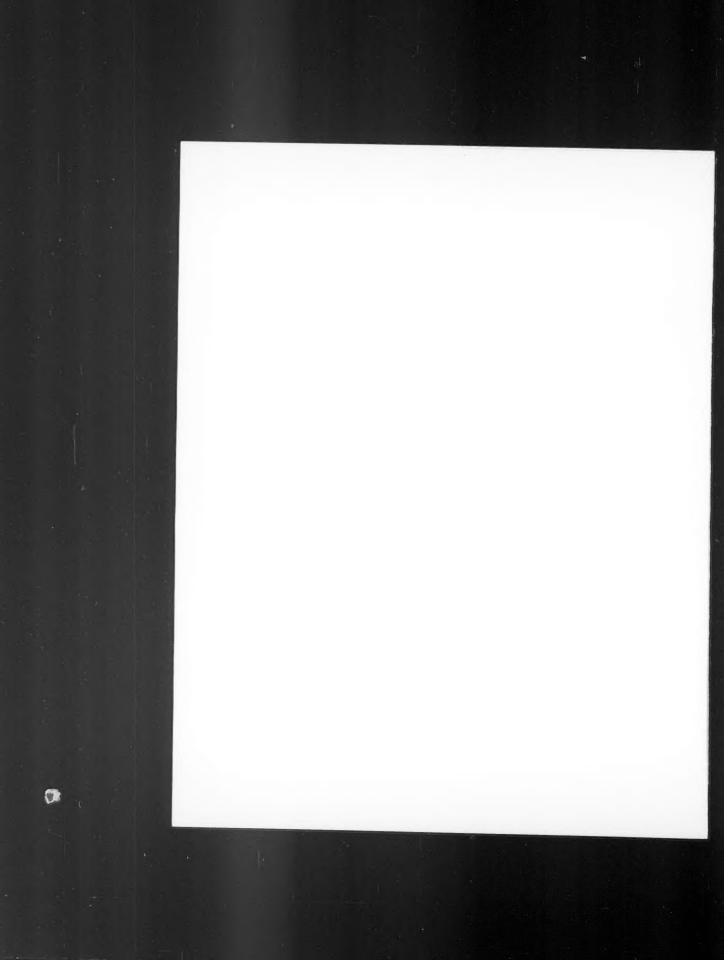
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE



Creative and innovative software will never be the sole domain of commercial software vendors. Some of the most exciting and unique software is being created by and for the business, government and education communities to meet their own unique needs.

All too often, these in-house developers and solution providers do not receive the kind of recognition their efforts would earn in the commercial arena. This is the primary motivation behind the Apple Enterprise Awards, a joint effort by Apple and Computerworld to showcase the outstanding custom application development work being done on the Macintosh platform throughout the world.

Another purpose for the Apple Enterprise Awards is to clearly demonstrate the distinct advantages the Macintosh platform offers in addressing the most complex and intensive requirements of computing within large organizations. Supporting this community is the logical extension of Apple's long-standing goal of increasing personal productivity through superior technology.

The results of the program, as you can see from the detailed application profiles within, are remarkable. Without exception, these developers have had a major positive impact on the ability of their organizations to communicate and do business.

It was especially gratifying to spend time with the contest finalists, looking at their applications and seeing how they combined their own talent and experience with Apple technology to add significant value to their organizations.

I would like to extend my thanks to those who devoted the time and energy to participating in the Awards program, and encourage all of you working with the Macintosh platform to participate in next year's program.

Michael Spindler President and CEO, Apple Computer CLIENT/SERVER: DEPARTMENTAL OR WORKGROUP

Lockheed Missiles & Space Co

FINALIST: 1515 Machine 2.0.1



The Space Systems Division of Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., in Sunnyvale, Calif., is currently involved in the development of Space Station Alpha (both the U.S. and Russian segments).

The 1515 Machine is a server-based multiuser relational database that automates many of the tasks associated with generating cost data and Basis of Estimates (BOE) for proposal efforts. Several report options provide various views of the BOE cost data, down to the individual task level. Data can be electronically exported into enterprise-level pricing systems, or to local workstations where the data can be analyzed from within other applications.

The 1515 Machine provides a long-term solution to generating cost data efficiently for all proposal efforts within SSD. It also serves as a data collection tool for exporting cost data into enterprise-wide new business systems. The database demonstrates that workgroup-level tools can have a significant impact on a company's productivity and cost-effectiveness.

Contact: Greg Chirichigno at (408) 756-4001.

Northwest Airlines Inc

FINALIST: Aircraft Situation Display



At Northwest Airlines' System Operation Control (SOC) facility, several operations groups must make and communicate critical operational decisions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Northwest Airlines developed Aircraft Situation Display (ASD) for Macintosh for its Minneapolis-based SOC facility. The application gives flight dispatchers a snapshot of a flight operation situation by depicting, in realtime, data critical to flight operations, such as current aircraft position, weather radar and significant weather information.

ASD is used primarily by dispatchers for pre-flight planning, route selection, following flights en route and alternative destination or diversion situations. Dispatchers can customize their displays to fit their particular work responsibilities.

ASD significantly enhances the collection and interpretation of crucial information through a single intuitive display. The application has resulted in major cost savings, cost avoidance, operational efficiencies and, ultimately, improved safety.

Contact: Bryan Bourn at (612) 727-6334.

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Alex. Brown & Sons is America's oldest investment banking firm, serving individual, institutional, corporate and municipal clients from offices

Alex. Brown operates the largest domestic floor trading floor outside New York City, processing thousands of transactions each day. In this fast-paced environment, traders require an information system that provides timely and accurate market data in a format that is easy to access and interpret.

Previously, the firm used a system that had been pieced together on multiple platforms, requiring traders to shift between five different screens, each with a different look and feel. The system was further hampered by outdated hardware and an unreliable communications backbone.

In 1994, the company moved to the Macintosh, citing ease of use plus the ability to integrate many services and all the off-the-shelf programs it could use for writing enhancements to its systems. "We compared Windows, Unix and Apple environments, and Apple was the easiest to use," says Robert Silbaugh, administrative manager for trading at Alex. Brown & Sons and also project manager for the Alex. Brown (ABS) Trading System.

The Macintosh-based system greatly enhances trader productivity. Through the integration of several disparate market data services running through Macintosh workstations, traders can now view, on one screen, all the information they need: market data, quotes, news, charts, historical data and databases. By eliminating the need for multiple workstations and shared devices, workplace clutter has been reduced. But the biggest benefit is that Alex. Brown can now help clients make decisions based on the most timely and accurate information available.

The system employs Apple Quadra 840AVs on the desktop and Quadra 650s in the computer room. On the Macintosh operating platform, Alex. Brown runs Novell, Unix, IBM and 486 Windowsbased applications as well as its own custom programs.

Winning the award has had positive results, both internally and externally, for Alex. Brown. According to Silbaugh, "It has made the Macintosh more accepted within Alex. Brown, and it has given us recognition throughout Wall Street that this is truly a dynamic trading product."

Contact: Robert Silbaugh, (800) 638-2596, x 3369.



Development tools used by Alex. Brown & Sons

Apple Computer

CLIENT/SERVER: EDUCATION OR GOVERNMENT

San Loaquin Delta Community College

FINALIST: System 2000



The Computer Services Department of San Joaquin Delta Community College, in Stockton, Calif., supports the technology for all academic and administrative computer services.

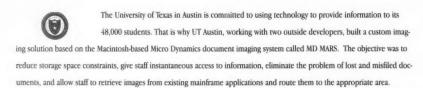
In 1989, Delta College's 13-year-old mainframe could no longer meet the demands of college administration. The challenge facing Computer Services was to create an open computing environment, improve staff productivity in application development and revision, and deliver an easy-to-use solution that maximized the college's computer resources on the desktop.

System 2000 is an integrated, scalable administrative system that is designed for the Macintosh client/server environment. System 2000 integrates functions for managing student information, human resources and payroll systems. The student information system, which collects data on some 14,000 students per semester, is the largest and most complex component. More than 200 desktop Quadras and 27 Workgroup 80s provide staff with the computer power for System 2000.

Contact: R. N. Zinck at (209) 474-5300.

University of Texas in Austin

FINALIST: UTX Image View Client, UTX NW Image Server 1.0



The system "image-enabled" the Software AG software used by UT and resulted in a custom client interface between the administrative computer system and MD MARS. The result is seamless communication between Software AG's Adabas database management system and Natural programming language, and MD MARS. Integration with the administrative computer system allows the university to maintain one database of information.

Contact: Shelby Stanfield at (512) 475-7310.

University College Dublin

WINNER: WEST (Web Educational Support Tools) 1.0



Founded in 1851, University College Dublin is the largest university in Ireland, with more than 15,000 undergraduate students.

The Computer Science department designed WEST (Web Educational Support Tools) as a delivery environment for transmitting multimedia course materials to students over the World Wide Web on the Internet. WEST also creates the potential to deliver course materials to audiences outside the university.

WEST also allows tutors (in the U.K. educational system, someone assigned to a group of students to monitor their progress) to provide individual support to each student through the product's built-in messaging system. Students can submit exercises directly to tutors. Tutors can then grade the exercises, and return them, with comments, to the students.

In WEST, a Macintosh is used as the Internet server; the client can be a Macintosh, PC or Unix workstation. University College currently uses a Power Macintosh 8100 as a server.

The Computer Science department's first prototypes of WEST were not robust enough to use. That was frustrating, according to project manager Henry McLoughlin, because "we knew exactly the type of support functionality we needed, but did not have the resources to build it on."

But then, says McLoughlin, "two crucial things came along: the Web and AppleScript. The Web gave us the perfect client/server architecture. And AppleScript allowed us to install the functionality we wanted very quickly." From that point on, he says, the project took four months to complete.

WEST was designed as an in-house solution, but University College now intends to license it to other educational establishments — not just other colleges, but also the K-12 sector, according to McLoughlin.

WEST won the Apple Enterprise Award because "Apple technology was more critical for us" than for the other finalists, theorizes McLoughlin. "We could not have done our project without AppleScript."

When WEST won, McLoughlin says, "Needless to say, we were extremely pleased. But it also brought something interesting home to us. With the Internet, it doesn't matter where you're situated. You don't have to be at MIT or in Silicon Valley. Once you're on the Internet, where you are is the center of the universe."

McLoughlin says he hopes to enhance WEST with QuickTime Conferencing, which he is currently testing. He also hopes to get top-of-the-line Power Macintoshes to use in development.

Contact: Henry McLoughlin at +353-1-706-2480.



CLIENT/SERVER: ENTERPRISE

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

FINALIST: MacCIS



The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) consists of Dartmouth Medical School, the Hitchcock Clinic, Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, the Matthew Thornton Health

Plan and Veteran Affairs Hospital. When host-based clinical information was available only through terminal displays, a group of Macintosh users requested to use their computers to present and interpret this clinical information.

The response was to develop MacCIS, a client/server system that links staff physicians, remote affiliate physicians and other clinical staff members to DHMC's existing MUMPS data repository, while providing access to the patient electronic medical record. Features include identification of patient records in other physical locations on the LAN; quick identification of documents within the record; custom graphing of lab results for custom tests; and provider scheduling, on-call lists, and patient admissions and census. MacCIS benefits all providers involved while restricting access and safeguarding patient confidentiality.

Contact: Stephen L. Priest at (603) 650-5886.

Northrop Grumman Corp

FINALIST: Integrated Graphics Communication System (IGCS)

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman Corp., in Pico Rivera, Calif., designs and manufactures military and commercial aircraft and assemblies, missiles and unmanned aeronautical vehicles, and electronics systems.

The Integrated Graphic Communications System (IGCS) is a multimedia Oracle database application that includes file cataloging, information management, job tracking, cost analysis and information routing software. The IGCS stores information such as digital photography, video, animation and audio files, as well as data, text and graphics files created in most desktop computer applications. Graphic files can be previewed in thumbnail form for quick identification, and documents are categorized in a document summary window.

Users of IGCS include office workers responsible for creating materials; researchers and analysts who need quick access to information; and executives who must review and approve work in progress.

Contact: Jeffrey Mirich at (310) 942-5160.

Control Data Systems

WINNER: Control Data Advisor

€ CONTROL DATA

Control Data Systems Inc. is a systems integration company that helps businesses and government institutions couple business process improvement with technology innovation.

The company has developed a client/server application, called Control Data Advisor, that allows customers to seamlessly access corporate data in Oracle databases. The application, which supports project-based business, is electronic commerce enabled (E-mail, EDI, messaging) and can interface with accounting packages, HR applications and other systems. Its functions include project accounting, project management, time scheduling, time tracking, skills inventory and resource utilization.

Prior to the implementation of Advisor, financial and management information was available only on a monthly basis, and the information was locked away in proprietary databases. Now, all project team members who need to be in the financials of the project are electronically updated, so they can look online at costs, and forecast, in realtime, different costs that will come up. "There are no manual transactions through the departments anymore," says Todd Hauschildt, manager of electronic workplace implementation for Control Data Systems.

Implementing Control Data Advisor has led to early identification of schedule and cost overruns, enabling swift corrective actions, thus improving the quality of Control Data's project delivery.

Control Data Advisor runs on any Macintosh. The server is Unix- and Oracle-based, and the client part of the application runs on any Macintosh Classic and up.

Hauschildt believes Control Data Advisor won because "it is truly used on an enterprise-wide basis. It is used in 20 countries throughout the world, and it's part of our standard business system."

He adds, "It's a way to take a human interface and put it as part of a normal business system where everyone who originates the data is able to see the data and work with it and edit it all in one place, instead of having to mark up paper and hand it to an administrator."

After winning the award, "we've gotten more credibility as an internal organization," Hauschildt says. "The Apple technology has enabled us to apply our own messaging and electronic commerce technology to this product."

Contact: Todd Hauschildt at (612) 482-4917.



Apple

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Pacific Northwest Laboratory

FINALIST: Ternary Waste Envelope Assessment Tool

Pacific Northwest Laboratory Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL) is a contract research organization in Richland, WA.

Much of its work is with the U.S. government, dealing with national environmental issues.

The costs associated with making and storing radioactive wastes from Hanford as glass logs in underground repositories amount to several billion dollars. The mixing and processing of the chemical mixture known as frit and waste (and a small volume recycle stream) must produce a glass product with properties acceptable for safely storing these wastes underground.

PNL is developing a set of analytical tools to help solve problems associated with the immobilization of these wastes.

Ternary Waste Envelope Assessment Tool (TWEAT) mathematically combines user-specified waste, frit and recycle streams and evaluates properties of the resulting glass mixture. By allowing plant operators to compare different processing scenarios visually, thus minimizing the number of glass logs produced, TWEAT can save several million dollars.

Contact: Bob Robertus at (509) 372-4918.

Trilogy Development Group

FINALIST: Data Capture

TRILOGY
In 1993, Trilogy Development Group, in Austin, TX, released the first multi-vendor, multi-distributor product information and configuration system, call Conquer. But to become an industry standard application for computer purchasers, the system must contain every component from every computer vendor in the world.

Data is difficult to collect and model — over 30% of the information on product data sheets is incorrect.

As a result, Trilogy developed Data Capture, a multi-user database that gives users an intuitive pathway to modeling products. With Data Capture, non-technical people can generate object-oriented models in seconds. Data Capture feeds all product information into Conquer, so buyers can use it to customize, comparison shop and order computer solutions.

Trilogy has used Data Capture to enter over 40,000 SKUs from more than 300 vendors and expects the number of SKUs to surpass 80,000 by year-end.

Contact: Jessica DiLullo at (512) 794-5900, ext. 263.

Bergen Brunswig Corp

WINNER: AccuSource

Bergen Brunswig Corp., based in Orange, Calif., provides
Bergen Brunswig Corporation health care products and information services to 12,000
pharmacies and hospitals across the U.S. The company provides over 60,000 products for these customers' prescription drug and "over-the-counter" needs.

Differentiation in the mature and intensely competitive business of health care distribution can be a problem. Since each distributor provides exactly the same products, differentiation can only occur by adding value.

To provide customers with an electronic catalog containing tools that enable "best buy, best price" analysis, Bergen Brunswig developed a CD ROM-based system that it calls AccuSource. Before ordering a product, the customer can stock-check it in real-time for availability. The catalog also provides customers with digital photos of new products and informs them of products that are specially priced for the month. In addition, product manufacturers can use the system to advertise to customers through the use of digital movies, digital photos and voice-over techniques.

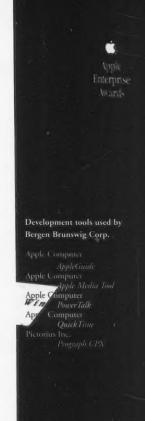
The system is deployed on an Apple Macintosh LC 575. Although customers could theoretically download the catalog to any computer with a CD ROM drive, it is specially configured for the LC 575. "We chose the LC 575 because of its design as an all-in-one platform," says Ray Pacitti, project manager, R&D. "Pharmacies don't have a lot of desktop space, so to have an external CD ROM or modem or peripheral would not be an effective use of space."

According to Pacitti, the AccuSource electronic catalog won in the Apple Enterprise Awards category for Communication & Collaboration because "it was the only business collaboration software application that was truly enterprise-wide."

Not only is the electronic catalog in production, Pacitti notes, "but it is also being used by more than 3,000 customers."

Each of those customers receives an updated CD ROM twice a month. Pacitti expects the number of customers to exceed 5,000 by year-end.

Contact: Ray Pacitti at (714) 385-4028.



CROSS PLATFORM

The Prudential Insurance Co.

FINALIST: The Member Services System, Version 4.50

The Prudential Insurance Co. of America uses the Member Services System (MSS) to provide instant access to customer support information during live telephone encounters. The system monitors and documents the progression of each call; routes unresolved issues through 13 divisions and tracks each open

monitors and documents the progression of each call; routes unresolved issues through 13 divisions and tracks each open issue's status in realtime; and retrieves data from 11 host-based applications, using a local SQL database to decipher cryptic mainframe codes.

Prior to MSS, access to those 11 mainframe applications was cumbersome — each one required unique log-on procedures, used different non-intuitive navigation commands, and demanded re-entry of customer ID numbers and other data. MSS has enabled one-click access to any information an needed during a customer engagement, eliminated repetition, automated documentation, reduced "sensory overload" and simplified navigation. Because workflow is no longer dictated by the design of legacy applications, the customer support process has been streamlined.

Walt Disney Pictures & Television

FINALIST: Disney "RADAR"



Walt Disney Pictures and Television is a producer and distributor of feature films and television entertainment programs via the theatrical, broadcast, cable, home video and interactive markets.

Disney RADAR (Rights, Availabilities, Distribution, Analysis & Reporting) is a cross-platform, client/server application that tracks and manages all Disney film, television and home video titles for domestic and international markets. A mission-critical business and sales support system, RADAR maintains the Disney library of titles, their related contracts and legal rights, coordinates worldwide distribution and sales commitment, and calculates marketing opportunities for maximum profitability.

RADAR solved six business problems: how to manage a complex, voluminous and growing global product line; how to enhance profitability; how to coordinate legal and contractual implications; how to provide easy-to-learn, flexible access for multiple levels of users; how to extend worldwide connectivity to a centrally located server; and how to offer identical cross-platform access via Macintosh and Windows operating systems.

Contact: Gary Kleinman at (818) 558-2310.

Naval Air Systems Command

WINNER: Naval Aviation Wide Area Network (NAVWAN)



The Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and its affiliates, including the Aviation Supply Office, provide life-cycle support for all Navy and Marine

Corps aircraft and related systems that can be operated, based and sustained at sea.

A large-scale reorganization and the widening geographical dispersal of NAVAJR caused a fundamental change in the way it did business. A robust communications infrastructure to enable cross-platform interoperability and access to databases, team members and customers worldwide was required.

"As you look at communications between all these groups, the cost of maintaining a team orientation was huge," says Commander Craig Luigart, director of strategic IS technology for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for R&D and acquisitions. "There was a cry for some way to integrate all these people so they were looking at the same data. That was what drove the initial integration."

As a result, NAVAIR developed the Naval Aviation Systems Team WAN (NAVWAN), an enterprisescale private network that integrates NAVAIR's 15,000 Macintosh computers and 25,000 PCs operating at more than 20 sites and across numerous operating environments. NAVWAN fulfills the requirements of the reorganization through: the integration of off-the-shelf products; providing a migration path to emerging messaging standards; and adopting a scalable network backbone.

The systems servers include both VAX and Macintosh platforms. "For senior managers, the Mac was easier to adapt to and a better fit with their logical understanding of their workspace," Luigart says. "The Mac became the lever to bring them into an integrated communications model."

Users of any of six off-the-shelf E-mail systems can access an X.500-like NAVAIR corporate directory of over 30,000 names. They can send and receive mail to corporate users and customers and to and from the Internet thru gateways. NAVWAN users can also attach binary files to mail messages and launch attachments from within individual mail applications (independent of platform). They can access corporate databases and file repositories independent of IAN operating systems or protocols.

Asked why NAVWAN won, Luigart surmises: "It took on an enterprise systems problem that dealt with a basic need: people being able to cleanly articulate and communicate data that deals with their day-to-day job, and attack that effectively, quickly and in a method not intrusive to the current environment that they already understood." Winning the award, he said, may help simplify a huge task: making NAVWAN the prototype for a national Navy infrastructure.

Contact: Commander Craig Luigart at (703) 697-3033.



Novell Corp.

MOBILE COMPUTING

Support Services

FINALIST: ClinTrak 1.0



For Medical Support Services, a Centreville, Ala., management company that provides health care management services to health providers across the U.S., tracking patient information is critical.

ClinTrak, a home health care application for visiting nurses, was developed to automate the capture of patient clinical data at the source - with the nurse in the home. Each day, the nurse links in to one of the company's satellite servers, sends patient information gathered from the previous day's visits, and retrieves the next daily schedule of visits.

On a typical day, each nurse visits up to six patients, using ClinTrak to record information such as vital signs and other clinical data; visit status, and reason for visit; medical supplies used; and mileage. ClinTrak not only eliminates many forms, but provides an electronic record for each patient that can be accessed remotely as well as on-site. Linked into the company's IS system, ClinTrak provides information for billing and patient tracking without the need for rekeying critical patient data.

Contact: Jeff Bauer at (205) 926-3700.

FINALIST: Zimmer Information Console



Zimmer, a division of Bristol Myers Squibb, designs, manufactures and distributes orthopedic implants and related equipment and supplies. With its product line (over 10,000 products) and customer base both growing, Zimmer needed to re-engineer its information dissemination processes.

The Zimmer Information Console (ZIC) is an electronic catalog that serves as a sales force automation solution. ZIC provides detailed product information (text, video, graphics) in a mobile package. Product quotes can be generated and immediately printed or faxed via built-in fax modem. Product features can be demonstrated through QuickTime movies.

ZIC and its supporting graphic files are distributed on a CD ROM set that contains over 2,500 single- and multiple-frame QuickTime movies. Graphic files can be integrated into computer-based sales presentation applications, allowing a salesperson to customize and personalize multimedia presentations for a customer.

Contact: Tim Poyner at (219) 372-4223.

Centric Systems Corp

WINNER: The Mortgage Market

Centric SYSTEMS CORPORATION Centric Systems Corp. has developed and deployed a decentralized distribution network for mortgage trading in Canada. The network allows con-

sumers to place their mortgage demand up for bidding, through an intermediary, on a basis where lenders actually respond in competition with each other. The entire network rests on a standard EDI file and record bundle that allows the trading to take place across company boundaries.

The network provides a transaction-fee based "electronic marketplace" between decentralized point of sales and centralized underwriting facilities on a national scale. The network allows financial product suppliers and consumers to transact business electronically in a virtual business environment. Participants can be any licensed individual or corporation; trades can occur between any parties.

The mortgage process has become a commodity, and profit margins are eroding. The Centric solution addresses the traditional "fixed cost" branch office distribution system with its high overhead and inflexibility. "We build all the technology and provide it to the industry," says David Chapman, president of Centric. "We don't sell it to anybody. We just give it to them to use on a transaction fee basis."

Centric Systems began putting the concept together back in 1988. "We started with the Apple platform at the outset," Chapman says. "Because it is oriented toward point-of-sale, we found the Apple environment was far easier to work with. We can give it to someone who understands the mortgage business and a day later they can be using it effectively in the field.

Centric's stresses Apple technology in its network. "If someone wants to play with us, they must use an Apple platform as defined by us," Chapman says. "It must be precisely the Apple configuration we tell them to have for their circumstances, because we support the entire network electronically."

According to Chapman, The Mortgage Market won because it defies traditional thinking. The traditional thinking in financial institutions, he says, is "I will build technology for my institution alone, and I will use that to beat up the other guy. But this product not only gives the consumer and the independent business person a bit of influence, it's cost-effective and beneficial for the financial institution."

Chapman calls winning the award "an anointment." In the past, he says, Centric had not been part of the "institutional fabric" in Canada. But, he adds, "We'll do about \$2 billion (Canadian) in residential transactions this year."

Contact: David Chapman at (519) 649-2363

Apple Enterprise Awards

Development tools used by Centric Systems Corp.

Apple Computer

Apple Remote Access

Apple Computer

Apple Imputer

CE oftware

Farallon Computing

Heizer Suliware

Hener Software
PrintReport

WindowScript

Oracle 7 for A/UX

Symantee Corp.

nited States Surgical Corp

FINALIST: Suture Label Approval Software



United States Surgical Corp., headquartered in Norwalk, Conn., is the world's largest manufacturer of surgical staplers. The company is also a leader in the field of minimally invasive surgery and a growing participant in the suture market.

Label artwork must pass stringent FDA requirements before being applied to products. But the request and review process was too costly in terms of time spent reviewing artwork, and review errors occurred too frequently.

Suture Label Approval Software (SLAS) is a document request and routing software system that lets multiple departments request, review and approve label artwork before it is applied to products. Approved artwork is then printed by the system to a robotic print-and-apply system designed for this process. SLAS sped up the review process by routing artwork to the appropriate department and decreased review errors substantially by providing comparison material and WYSIWYG review of artwork.

Contact: Scott Neufeld at (203) 834-5289.

University of Pennsylvania

FINALIST: Penn Printout Online



The Office of Information System and Computing produces the University of Pennsylvania's technology newsletter. The World Wide Web edition of the newsletter is called Penn Printout Online.

Penn Printout Online offers "anywhere, anytime" access to current and archived university computing information. It is accessible from a World Wide Web home page in four formats: PDF (Acrobat), HTML, PostScript and ASCII. The home page also provides a hyperlinked subject/author/keyword index to the current year's HTML files, a feedback form and a searchable ASCII archive going back to 1991. The URL is http://www.upenn.edu/pennprintout.

Penn Printout Online solved the university's problem of distributing information. Although the print version was distributed directly to faculty and staff, only through Penn Printout Online did it become feasible to potentially achieve total distribution to a changing student population of some 20,000 graduate and undergraduate students.

Contact: Edda Katz at (215) 898-1786.

University of lowa

WINNER: Second Look Computing (Arachnid)



Second Look Computing is the University of Iowa's campus-wide resource for instructional software development research, training and support. It

allows students, faculty and staff members to create pages on the World Wide Web without having to learn HTML coding. Because it allows them to weave pages for the Web, its developer, Robert McBurney, dubbed it Arachnid.

Creating Web pages in pure HTML is a complicated process. HTML tags often do not translate visually into what a page will look like, and there are no OLE standards. "With HTML, it's a very inexact science," says McBurney. "It's impossible to visualize how it will look with other objects on the page.

There is nothing that forces an author to write readable HTML."

Arachnid simplifies the process by removing the HTML tags from the process of Web page design. Through its drag-and-drop interface, Arachnid automates the process of defining a page's interactivity. Its "active" mode allows a user to preview a page's interactivity before it is converted to HTML. Arachnid only generates HTML codes when the page is converted for the Web.

According to McBurney, Arachnid may be the best tool for beginners designing Web pages. "It's the difference between letting them do 90% of their development work versus paying someone else to do it," he says. "Most people who use it have had their own home page on the Internet in one week." More than 15,000 people have downloaded Arachnid since it became available to anyone in March.

"The TCP control panel makes the Mac a no-brainer in terms of a machine for taking control of the Internet. You don't have to constantly make changes in system. It allows you to take for granted the ability to work in an authoring environment controlling multimedia file formats while maintaining your Internet connection," says McBurney, who works on an Apple Power Macintosh 6100 AV.

McBurney thinks Arachnid won this portion of the competition because "considering how hot the Internet is, anything that was geared as tool toward Internet had an advantage. And because Arachnid is a multimedia authoring tool, I can put together a whizbang demo application in no time flat."

Winning the award has been a big boost for Arachnid. "There's an unstated bias against products that aren't shrink-wrapped," McBurney says. "Winning will give Arachnid another level of legitimacy to help people take notice of it."

Contact: Robert McBurney at (319) 335-5194.



Development tools used by University of Iowa

Allegiant Technologies
SuperCard
Information Workshop
PlacePicture

Win

MULTIMEDIA: BUSINESS

Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc.

FINALIST: Knowledge On-Line Kiosk

Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc., a management and technology consulting firm in New York City, developed a multimedia kiosk, to allow the collection and sharing of its best thinking around the world. The Knowledge On-Line kiosk is used as an internal marketing/communications, awareness-building and training tool. It serves as the linchpin of Booz-Allen's campaign to kick off its Knowledge Program. Concept to global roll-out took four weeks.

A team of four Booz-Allen consultants with limited multimedia exposure used off-the-shelf packages to implement the interactive self-paced program, which uses a variety of techniques, including 3-D animation, cartoons and QuickTime screen captures, to pass information on to users.

By generating excitement and buy-in for the entire program; providing a context for users to understand the program; and delivering an easy-to-use self-training vehicle, the Knowledge On-Line Kiosk has exceeded the firm's roll-out objectives.

Contact: Aron Dutta at (212) 551-6781.

MacTraining

FINALIST: LinkIT! 2.1

MacTraining is a company in St. Petersburg, Fla., that trains public school teachers to use Macintosh computers. The company teaches more than 80 Macintosh-related hardware and software courses, primarily at public schools but also inside corporations.

LinkIt! creates interactive multimedia standalones based on HyperText, buttons, cards, space and pop-up menus. Aimed at casual users, LinkIT! is the first Macintosh program that creates HyperText with no scripting. Its files can be self-running, can solicit user input, or can combine both. The package includes an interactive test maker, grade book program, sound recording section, color paint tools and QuickTime playback control. Links can also control audio CDs, laserdiscs and MIDI synthesizers.

Linklt! has been used to test and place trainees, and to create supplemental support for hands-on training. Trainees prefer Linklt! overwhelmingly compared to MacTraining's previous method of hard copy handouts.

Contact: Ray Horsley at (813) 528-0725.

WINNER: The Andersen Window of Knowledge System



Andersen Corporation is the largest manufacturer of wood windows and patio doors. The company, based in Bayport, Minn., provides a range of consistent windows, door and roof window styles in standard and custom sizes.

The Andersen Window of Knowledge System was developed to support distributors and retailers in selling and quoting Andersen's growing product lines. The system, which replaces manual procedures, traditional catalogs and price books, is designed to support the sales and marketing efforts for use in Andersen's distribution system, as well as to publish product information and to simplify the process of specifying and quoting Andersen products.

The system currently runs on an Apple Power Macintosh 8100/100AV and is used by virtually all of Andersen's 100 distributors and 500 retailers. A portable version is also available; this version runs on the PowerBook 540c. The portable version is also used by 100 representatives inside the Andersen sales organization.

According to Robert Saxler, architect and application development leader, the Andersen Window of Knowledge System won in its particular application category because of "the depth of the solution. The toolbox we've distributed to our retailers not only supports the presentation of product information, but also the design and test of products.

"The Andersen Window of Knowledge is not a superfluous activity," he adds. "It is an integral method of delivering and selling products, and it has allowed us to increase the number of products we offer. We are now specializing products to customers' specifications, which supports the trend of mass customization."

According to Saxler, winning the award in the Multimedia Kiosk category for business "raises customer awareness of Andersen Corporation as an information-savvy partner in the construction industry. We're providing the information required to do business, whether that business is in the retail environment to sell our products or in the construction environment to have the accurate dimensional information required to install building products."

Contact: Robert Saxler at (612) 430-5110.



MULTIMEDIA: EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT

The City of Longview, Washington

FINALIST: Get in Touch



The city of Longview, Wash., has 35,000 residents and is the hub for activity in the state's Cowlitz County, which has a population of nearly 80,000. The challenge for Longview,

was to find the most efficient way of providing a large amount of information to a large number of people at any time of the day or night. In the past, information about the area was available only during regular business hours.

Get in Touch, an interactive touchscreen information kiosk, now provides this information 24 hours a day at four locations. Over 1000 people now access information each month using Get in Touch.

The kiosk's intuitive menus and touchscreen technology allow users to select information by tapping buttons. A captivating combination of graphics, video and sound portrays information about Longview area attractions, business and government services in a manner that is both entertaining and logical.

Contact: Brenda Cooper at (360) 577-3350.

Honoka'a High School

FINALIST: Instant Interactive 1.0



Multimedia was getting more popular at Honoka'a High School, a K-12 public school on the Big Island of Hawaii. But after finding most authoring programs either too intimidating or not rich enough in features, the school had a custom application developed to meet its expanding needs for multimedia production.

The C++-based application, called Instant Interactive, made multimedia authoring quick and easy, allowing the school to create elaborate, fully interactive multimedia products without a high learning curve or a loss of complexity and visual richness.

After using Instant Interactive for a community history multimedia grant project about nearby Waipi'o Valley and Hawaiian culture, the school wanted to construct even more new and varied products. Now, Future-Farmer, Science Fair and History-Day statewide competitions, plus student-created library reference materials, can be multimedia creations. The Instant Interactive solution has allowed Honoka'a High to devote a new computer lab entirely to multimedia production for the next school year.

Contact: Kim Hunt at (808) 775-0995.

Penn State Alumni Association

WINNER: Penn State Alumni Association Information Kiosk 1.0

PENNSTATE

The Penn State Alumni Association wanted to serve its members better, and thought that more high-tech visibility would allow it to do that. So the asso-

ciation decided to create an information kiosk that could serve as an easy-to-use, up-to-date information resource about the Alumni Association, Penn State and the local community.

The kiosk also helps the Alumni Association gain visibility so that it can increase membership, particularly among recent graduates and current students. The kiosk employs a playful graphical interface that entertains and engages the user.

Currently there are three kiosks that tell the Penn State story. The three are located at the Nittany Lion Inn (an on-campus hotel), the Scanticon Conference Center and the Hetzel Student Union. Although much of the information resides on the individual kiosks themselves, when additional data is needed, such as the latest weather forecasts, a kiosk can make a request to a network server, which retrieves data from the Internet, formats it graphically, and transmits it to the kiosk client which formats the information for interactive use.

The kiosk is built around an 8100/80AV Power Macintosh. All the video involved runs off the Power Macintosh's internal hard drive.

Eventually, there could be as many as 15 to 20 kiosks, situated on campus and around town, according to Thomas Flach, multimedia producer with the Multimedia and Emerging Technologies Group at Penn State's Center for Academic Computing,

According to Mike Halm, project manager for the Multimedia and Emerging Technologies Group, the kiosk won the award in its particular category because "it fit the enterprise model more. We were doing things with remote servers."

Another reason, he says, was that the kiosk used a lot of creativity to make it user-friendly. "We used a video guide who's something of a stand-up comic to usher people through the use of the kiosk."

As a result of winning the award, the Multimedia and Emerging Technologies Group has garnered some attention on campus. "We'll be doing some additional development on the project next year, trying to integrate QuickTime conferencing and some QuickTime Virtual Reality," says Halm.

Contact: Mike Halm at (814) 865-2159



The type of solutions highlighted by the Apple Enterprise Awards program transform the personal computer from inanimate hardware into an integral part of the way an organization does business.

Developers rely on a rich set of tools to create such solutions. Since introducing the Macintosh, Apple has worked to guarantee that the broadest range of such tools are available for the Macintosh platform.

The state of Macintosh development has come a long way,

with Apple pioneering concepts such as object-oriented programming, visual programming and component software. You see just a small sample of the current state of tools for the platform reflected in the software used to create the Enterprise Awards finalists.

The growing need for feature-rich and custom software will catalyze dramatic changes in the way software is created, updated and used. On the development side, these transitions are being driven by:

- Increased application complexity. As software applications become increasingly feature-rich and complex, it becomes more difficult for developers to debug, maintain and improve them via traditional programming methods.
- Proliferation of system software APIs. The growing difficulty of implementing APIs across different computer platforms is making it harder to build programs that take advantage of new system technologies.

- Multiplatform delivery. Economic pressures are forcing developers to find inexpensive ways to deploy products across multiple platforms.
- Need for more efficient programming. Because of the shortage of qualified programmers, it has become more important to maximize programmer productivity and create easy-touse tools for non-programmers.

One approach that can minimize these problems is "componentization" — the creation of industry standards that enable

> software to be developed as modular, compatible building blocks. Widespread adoption of such a standard will make it easier for developers to create products, deliver software updates, keep up with hardware changes, and deploy content to multiple platforms. The component standard that Apple, IBM, Novell and other industry

leaders support is OpenDoc, an architecture that enables modular, cross-platform component software development.

Apple continues to extend the Macintosh software architecture and to "share the wealth" with developers. Apple's investments in emerging technologies and platforms will provide developers with new opportunities in the areas of PDAs, intelligent agents, 3-D graphics, video conferencing, interactive television access and online service navigation facilities. And as computer, television and telephone technologies converge, enterprising Macintosh developers will define and refine how these systems interact.



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Workgroup Computing

Handle with care Remote PCs part

Workflow systems must work with, not remove, legacy systems

By Tim Ouellette SAN JOSE, CALIF

Workflow systems often arrive when a company restructures its business process, but in almost every case the software still has to deal with legacy systems.

At Workflow '95, held here recently, users' experiences integrating workflow and legacy sys-

tems were a frequent topic of conversation. If not handled properly, the workflow systems installed today could become the bulky legacy systems of tomorrow, an industry watcher said.

Workflow software automates the movement of documents through an organization and usually involves mission-critical processes.

A representative

from workflow software developer Viewstar Corp. said 95% of the systems the company installs deal with these types of legacy systems.

At TV Guide in Radnor, Pa., for example, workflow project leader Gregory Smith made sure the magazine's more than 50 Unix servers and mainframes were considered before the magazine installed InConcert workflow software from the XSoft. Inc. division of Xerox Corp. The magazine wanted a workflow system to manage the production of more than 100 editions of TV Guide targeted at different viewing areas across North America.

Also, the software had to run with TV Guide's Oracle Corp. database because "we didn't want

> to spend any more money on database technology." Smith explained.

Obstacle course But while the software dealt with the technological sues, the human issues could not be overlooked. The mainframe operators at first balked at the workflow software, saving they could manage the

10,000 different tasks associated with creating TV Guide.

"The operators were big obstacles until they were able to get their hands on the workflow," Smith said. "They wanted to put the book out; Workflow systems, page 54

Head to head

million firm that sells

System (NFS) data

servers. They comp

servers from Sun

with off-the-shelf Unix

wlett-Packard Co.,

IBM and \$15 million

Network Appliance

sells dedicated NFS

View, Calif., which also

Corp. in Mountain

dedicated Network File

Auspex is a \$115

of DMI standard

By Steve Moore

sers last week expressed hope that additions to an emerging technical standard will give them a consistent way to track and manage hardware and software for far-flung PCs.

The Desktop Management Interface (DMI) standard has been extended to allow remote PCs as well as local, LAN-attached desktops to provide information about their hardware and software to management applications.

The Remote Desktop Management Interface (RDMI) allows management information to be transported between servers and remote PCs via any chosen communications protocol. It was designed to put an

end to longstanding debates about the merits of competing protocols

RDMI also provides "a single way of getting DMI information across the wire without having to worry about having separate [software] agents for each application to run,"

said Ed Arrington, chairman of the Desktop Management Task Force, the industry consortium that developed DMI and RDMI.

Some users welcomed the improved standard, RDMI "would be very helpful in providing a means to deal with remote site problems from our centralized help desk," said Ki Wilson, a senior microcomputer analyst at Stone Container Corp. in Chicago.

With Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT and Novell, Inc. NetWare servers installed and more than 3,000 PCs to manage in 150 locations nationwide, Wilson said his company is "looking at using two different management packages." Those are Microsoft's Systems Management Server on the NT side and In-

tel Corn,'s LANDesk Manager on the NetWare side.

"It would be nice to share information between those two packages through the RDMI," he said. Another user said the standard

could help cut costs. Glenn Farrell. LAN systems coordinator at Firestone Textiles in Woodstock, Ontario, said RDMI support could

have provided "big-time savings" for management

by eliminating the three hours spent working with two vendors to get Token Ring and PCMCIA cards to work in a Pentium-based PC.

him recently

While analysts hailed the RDMI specification, they faulted vendors for failing to make their PC products comply fully with DMI standards. The key question is "will

RDMI be another opportunity for [vendors] to diverge, or will it strengthen support for DMI and consistency in the use of it?" asked Jim Herman, a vice president at Northeast Consulting Resources, Inc. in Roston

Another observer wondered whether the DMI improvements are too little, too

late. Microsoft recently decided that its products won't comply fully with the DMI specification. "In the meantime, companies like Compaq have come out with their own systems because DMI was so late," said Greg Lewis, president of the Personal Computer Assets Management Institute, Inc., a user group in Rochester, N.Y., that provides information about how users can manage technical assets.

"DMI could do what's needed," Lewis said. But he added that after two years of work, it is "unfortunately disintegrating into a number of different camps." Vendors are seeking competitive advantages rather than cooperating on one standard for managing PC assets, Lewis contended.



Protection guaranteed Auspex's ServerGuard has automatic failover capabilities

By Jean S. Bozman SANTACLARA, CALIF

When users work on a network, their data files may be stored locally or flung far across the country at a remote storage site.

But when a local power outage hits and the servers drop off-line, users are affected and business is disrupted - regardless of where the data lives

Software protection

Hoping to address this problem, Auspex Systems, Inc. recently added software protection to its NS 7000

server line designed to restore data access with near-fault-tolerance.

The software option, called ServerGuard, provides automatic failover capabilities that connect users with alternate Network File System (NFS) file servers in case of outages. Although the switchover can be done in less than a second; resynchronizing two servers may take several seconds.

ServerGuard can also be used by sites that can't tolerate any interruption in the data access that feeds key applications such as financial trading and real-time manufacturing.

The Auspex software package, priced from \$15,000 to \$35,000, supports wide-area network

software protocols local TCP/IP and LANs. Announced at a user meeting earlier this month, it is set to ship this fall.

Safe and secure

Users said they are pleased with the new failover capabilities because they often must access network data from multiple locations. NationsBank Corp., for example, has offices in Charlotte, N.C., and New York. The bank plans to link Auspex servers at both sites as

part of an automatic backup system, and it will Auspex, page 57



The RDMI allows information about hardware and software for remote PCs to be accessed by central management applications using any protocol across any network.

Get your fax straight

Inbound fax routing to computers still poses implementation snafus

By Suruchi Mohan

Ask anyone about inbound routing and the answer is the same: The pleasure of having faxes delivered to your desktop comes at a price.

That cost is tallied in both dollars and in the difficulty of implementing the technology. Unfortunately for users, the situation hasn't changed over the past couple of years — a near eternity in the high-tech industry.

Outbound routing — or sending faxes from a computer over a network to a destination — has been fairly easy to implement and use. But inbound routing continues to be difficult. Three of the popular technologies for achieving it are direct inward dialing (DID), dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF) and optical character recognition (OCR).

DID stands alone

Apart from DID, most inbound faxing methods are "partial and require some manual intervention," said Peter Davidson, presi-

dent of Davidson Consulting in Burbank, Calif.

Think of DID as a private branch exchange (PBX) for faxes. A trunk line comes into the fax server and is divided into sever-

al lines; each user gets a line.

This is a good solution for inbound faxing, said James Rafferty, technical editor of "Human Communications Digest," a quarterly standards newsletter in Danbury, Conn. "Its strong point is that it is backward compatible," which means it will work with any fax machine. "Its weakness is the cost," he

said. The high cost comes from installing phone lines and fax boards as more people are added to the system.

DID is also complex from the physical network standpoint, said Don Hammond, an information support specialist at Hewlett-Packard Co. in Loveland, Colo. "You have to understand how to configure DID with the PBX and set up the physical connection. You have to understand line voltages as you connect DID lines to the computer room."

Dialing for answers

Direct inward dialing: Think of DID as a PBX for faxes. A trunk line comes into a fax server and is divided into lines for each user. Each trunk line is the equivalent of one fax machine.

Dual tone multifrequency: DTMF requires the sender to enter a code after the fax number. This is hard to use because users often don't know when to enter the code.

Optical character recognition: OCR is difficult with handwritten fax cover sheets. Even printed cover sheets are not always 100% readable.

he explained.

Still, users evaluating fax server technology seem inclined to go with DID. Garth Keesler, a staff consultant at Intergraph Corp., a computer systems vendor in Huntsville, Ala., said he would like "dual phone lines" — one for the phone and the other for fax. DID

will give him both

Other methods of inbound routing, such as DTMF and OCR, aren't as popular or reliable. DTMF, or Touch-Tone dialing, requires the sender to enter the recipient's code after the fax number. But a lot of machines don't support the timing issues, for example, when the sender needs to enter the code.

A ways to go

OCR has made some strides in handwriting recognition, but it is still less than perfect in recognizing either handwritten or typewritten code on fax cover sheets.

Although she said she is excited about inbound routing, "OCR is low on our list," said Karen Dorrough, a PC analyst at Chevron Information Technology Co. in San Ramon, Calif. Chevron is piloting a DID project.

One development that is likely to take inbound routing to the next level is T.30 subaddressing, according to

Ken Camarro, president of Camarro Research in Fair-

"The biggest impediment to LAN fax is addressing. Once [subaddressing] gets going, it will be a very powerful thing," he said.

T.30 subaddressing is a Telecommunications Industry Asso-

ciation standard. It requires users to enter a code after the fax number. This code is transmitted to the receiving device during the "handshake." The downside is that the sending machine must be able to put the code into the handshake, and both devices must recognize T30. Currently, many machines don't do this.

TeamWare mixes workflow with groupware

Challenges Notes by offering 'workflow in a box'

By Tim Ouellette

TeamWare, a division of UK-based ICL, has added a workflow module to its suite of groupware products, something Lotus Development Corp., Microsoft Corp. and Novell, Inc. have yet to fully address in their groupware plans.

By integrating workflow with groupware, users can let the software automatically route their work items to other us-

ers instead of manually routing everything.

TeamWare unveiled Team-Ware Flow at Workflow '95, a sparsely attended show held here recently. TeamWare Flow is collaborative workflow software that works with TeamWare Office groupware and runs under a TeamWare Messaging Server. Workflow software automates the routing of work items through an

organization and monitors the status of each item through the process.

The combination of groupware and workflow differentiates TeamWare and makes it competitive with Notes, said Bob Sakakeeny, an analyst at Aberdeen Group, Inc. in Boston. "It is lower cost but not low-end stuff, though it is easier to use than Notes. Notes is not a workflow product." he noted

Notes, unlike TeamWare, requires special programming or assistance from a consultant to develop a customized workflow system, he said. With TeamWare, users get the workflow out of the box.

Team members

TeamWare Flow includes a graphical planner, viewer, forms builder, document management and an application programming interface for developing custom applications. The server software runs on Microsoft's Windows NT with a SQL Server database or Sun Microsystems, Inc. Solaris 2.4 with Sybase, Inc.'s Sybase 10 database. The client runs under Windows or Windows NT.

Sakakeeny said the modular approach allows users to hook into any document management system. Previously, TeamWare Office users had to hook into workflow from an outside vendor — Staffware, Inc. in Wellesley, Mass. — much like Notes' approach to workflow.

The software provides flexible workflow that lets users change the process quickly, according to Paul Taylor, a product manager at Santa Clara, Calif.-based TeamWare. Every process managed by TeamWare Flow has an "owner" who decides what users have a right to alter the process.

TeamWare Flow is currently in beta-testing at a few selected sites and will cost \$495 per user. The product is expected to ship by the end of the year.

Brief

Prices guaranteed for RS/6000 resellers

Recognizing that IBM's new PowerPC-based desktops may depress pricing for PowerPC-based IBM RS/6000 workstations, an IBM executive confirmed the company will issue a pricing guarantee for its 500-plus RS/6000 channel resellers. "It's a price-protection plan," said Tom Janosh, vice president of channel strategy and management at IBM's RS/6000 division in White Plains, N.Y.

Workflow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

they wanted the responsibility."

With the workflow system installed, Smith said, training costs have been reduced for new operators: The system prompts them with a constant "to do" list. The client/server systems spread around the company are also used more efficiently, as InConcert routes batch process work to available computer resources instead of overloading one machine.

Using an off-the-shelf product reduced development and maintenance costs. "I could not do all this with programmers for the same price," Smith said. Maintenance is now only a fraction of a programmer's annual salary, he said.

Workflow can also be used to link vertical legacy systems, such as financial and manufacturing applications, because of their position at the core of many businesses, said John O'Connell, president of Wellesley, Mass.-based Staffware Corp.

"Legacy systems are usually robust and mission critical," he said. "Workflow automation without legacy systems is not an option."

Increased demand

Then there are cases where the replacement of computer hardware puts demands on workflow systems.

At Cigna Corp. Health Insurance in Hartford, Conn., Staffware's workflow software had to be configured to work with 10,000 older dumb terminals because the company considered the costs of replacing them all too high.

The system now handles 60,000 insurance claims a month and reroutes 15,000 special case claims that aren't handled by the regular workflow programs.



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Software Artistry, Inc. has started shipping SA-Expert Quality, a tool for facilitating communication among department groups.

According to the Indianapolis company, SA-Expert Quality gives support centers a mechanism to log, track and manage customer defect reports and enhancement requests.

SA-Expert Quality features automatic internal notification when an assignment has changed, automatic customer notification by fax or electronic mail when the status of a reported defect changes, flexible reporting and query capabilities and remote entry of defects and enhancement requests.

SA-Expert Quality runs on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 3.1, IBM's OS/2 2.1 and LANs including Novell, Inc.'s NetWare, IBM's OS/2 LANServer and Microsoft's LANManager.

Pricing for SA-Expert Quality starts at \$15,000 for 10 users.

Software Artistry (317) 843-1663

Scopus Technology, Inc. has introduced Sales Team 2.0, a software package that links sales process automation with corporate marketing campaigns.

According to the Emeryville, Calif., company, SalesTeam 2.0 gives sales teams, marketing departments and customer service departments access to sales data. It was designed to reduce sales cycles and highlight return-on-investment data from marketing campaigns.

SalesTeam 2.0 includes features for database marketing management and sales process automation. It lets users create marketing campaigns and manage sales cycles using shared databases of sales information.

Pricing starts at \$2,875 per concurrent user and depends on configuration.

Scopus Technology (510) 597-5800

Crystal Computer Services, Inc. has unveiled Crystal Info, a workgroup decision-support application.

According to the Vancouver, British Columbia, company, Crystal Info is a workgroup information system with data access and analysis capabilities. It features a distributed processing arrangement that removes processing from end-user systems and makes efficient use of system resources.

Crystal Into also features automatically scheduled report/query results. These results are made available to all members of the workgroup. Users can then use tools for drill-down, integrated graphing, data selection, sorting and totaling.

Crystal Info provides data access to a range of SQL and PC-based databases. It costs \$350 per seat.

Crystal Computer Services (604) 681-3435

FreeMail, Inc. has released FreeMail Internet 4.0, an Internet electronic-mail system.

According to the Bozeman, Mont., company, FreeMail Internet 4.0 can be used to set up private E-mail networks and multihop router networks. It lets users exchange Internet mail with people who have addresses on any commercial Internet provider. The only charges for sending and receiving messages through FreeMail's domain are normal telephone charges.

A single copy of the product is licensed to create 200 FreeMail Internet "children" copies, which can also send and receive Internet mail.

The product can also bypass the Internet and communicate directly with other FreeMail connections. Users can send large binary files or establish a secure and private communications link through FreeMail Internet 4.0.

FreeMail Internet 4.0 is available for Microsoft Corp.'s Windows, Windows NT and Windows 95 and the Macintosh. The product costs \$600.

► FreeMail (406) 586-4200

IS bookshelf

♦ Groupware: Technology and Applications edited by David Coleman and Raman Khanna, 608 pages, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, N.J., \$48 (hardcover).

This book presents essays from some 20 experts about how to most productively use groupware in corporate America. The experts include hands-on practitioners in companies such as the Bank of Montreal, academ-

ics and consultants. The advice goes from the practical — how to implement Microsoft Corp.'s Access to the theory of groupware.

Multimedia in Action! by Linda Tway, 280 pages, AP Professional (Academic Press), San Diego, Calif., \$39.95, (paperback).

This book covers basic definitions, copyright issues, development plat-

forms (hardware and software) and profiles of different kinds of multimedia applications (education and training, reference tools). Perhaps not coincidentally, one of the two multimedia consulting firms the author profiles happens to be the one of which she's president. There is a re-

A CD-ROM is also included. It contains demonstration versions of 11 multimedia titles talked about in

the book

the book.

Multimedia Networking by Bohdan O. Szuprowicz, 261 pages, McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York, N.Y., \$29.95 (paperback).

This book explains how to network multimedia PCs and transmit data, full-motion video and CD-quality audio over LANs.

Compiled by Johanna Ambrosio.

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Auspex

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

install ServerGuard this month after the software is beta-tested.

Even when power failures don't occur, ServerGuard will increase the flexibility of systems management.

"We can take part of the file system down for maintenance during business hours, which we could not do before," said Roland Voyages, vice president of technical services at NationsBank Capital Markets, Inc. in New York. The New York site has 120G bytes of data capacity on two Auspex servers. Another benefit, he added, is that client PCs don't have to be rebooted after an outage.

Jim Swanson, a vice president of information systems at CS First Boston's fixed-income trading unit in New York, said he wants to prevent server down-

time for financial traders. "It's the security of knowing that it's always going to be there," Swanson said of ServerGuard. "It's very nearly fault tolerance. The application on some other computer will not notice that the server has gone down."

Industry analysts said Auspex's sales are roughly 40% a year. Among the company's clients are Swiss Bank Corp. in Chicago, CS First Boston in New York and NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston.

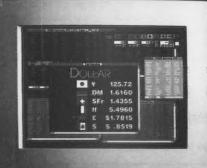
Auspex is benefiting from the widespread trend of migrating from centralized mainframe systems to networks of distributed file servers.

"Their strategy is generally to drive their product to almost fault-tolerant levels, but you don't have to pay for all the redundancy in the file system," said Joe Clabby, director of transitional technologies at Aberdeen Group, Inc. in Roston.



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COMMENTARY

Internet security split

Let the browser beware

Steve Moore



So there you were in Rio on the last leg of your South American vacation. You got bored one rainy day, plugged your laptop into the hotel telephone line and soon were happily clicking through one of those new World Wide Web

You had to type some information about yourself into an on-line

ultrahot Viper sports car.

You also wandered into an on-line newsstand, where your inaccurate mouse click missed The Econnew - and supposedly unbreakable - freeware encryption program. In fact, you found a Microsoft Windows 95 beta version and downloaded it.

lot of unexpected E-mail and snail mail. The surprise mailings included Chrysler sales brochures, offers for international travel packages and catalogs for pornographic CD-ROMs. You also got a stern written warning from the U.S. government about its prohibition on the export of encryption technology.

Virtual snoops

Welcome to the increasingly intrusive information age, in which cash is the enemy because it's anonymous. When you plunk down a stack

of \$20 bills and walk out of a shoe store with a new pair of Italian loafers, no one captures any information about that transaction except the store, which knows that it sold a pair of size 10s for \$200.

But in the on-line world, you can bet your Ballys that most transactions that can be tracked will be tracked, after which information about them will be sold and resold. Entrepreneurs are already offering tools for monitoring and analyzing Web site usage

For example, W3.Com in Palo Alto, Calif., now offers Web server visitortracking software that monitors visits

Moore, page 64

Lack of security is no obstacle

Gary H. Anthes

"French hacker cracks Netscape code," cried a headline in The Wall Street Journal recently.

The San Jose Mercury News also carried the story, which told how a French student broke the encryption protecting a secret message. The Mercury News

said the incident pro-

voked "a chilling thought for companies aiming to do business in cyberspace

Now, we journalists love to dramatize not to say hype - but this is a bit much. Nothing the French "hacker" did should surprise

First the facts. Damien Doligez used 112 university computers in a "brute-force search" to find the 40-bit key needed to decode an encrypted message that had been posted on the Internet as a challenge to hackers. As everyone knows, toute la France goes to the Riviera in August, so the computers had a lot of spare cycles.

The encryption method attacked was RSA Data Security's RC4, which Uncle Sam has approved for export in its 40-bit flavor.

There are about 1 trillion permutations of 40 bits, enough to keep the computers busy for up to 15 days, Doligez estimated. One can almost imagine them humming the "Marseillaise" as they marched through the megabytes. But half way through, one of the workstations cried, "Eureka!" (or more likely, "Zut alors!"), and the job was done. Readers of the popular press were left with "chilling thoughts.

It is important to note that the student's method didn't discover some "master key" for RC4 but only the key used to encrypt the challenge message. Had Doligez wanted to go after other secret E-mail messages or credit-card transactions, the battalion of computers would have had to start over for every one. Soon his countrymen would have returned from the beach and given him the virtual guillotine.

Encryption? No way!

In the U.S., where the government's ban on the export of strong encryption obviously doesn't apply, encryption keys are much longer than 40 bits. Each additional bit doubles the difficulty of a brute-force attack, and so the risk in the U.S. from casual hackers or even pros with supercomputers is, as mathematicians like to say, "vanishingly small."

Indeed, for some commerce-minded Internauts, encryption just isn't needed at all. For example, the Internet Society, no less, takes unencrypted credit-card numbers from its members over the 'net for conference registration.

When I first saw that, I called Tony Rutkowski, executive director of the society, and asked him if that didn't give his members "chilling thoughts." "As it turns out, not a lot of people are concerned about that," he shrugged.

Rutkowski said most people view the risk of sending a credit-card number "in the clear" over the Internet as about the same as giving it out over the telephone. There are serious obstacles to Internet commerce. Lack

of security isn't one of them.

shopping malls.

form before you could cruise the mall, but hey, no big deal, right? You skimmed through information about ordering CDs because you need to replace your worn out cassettes. And you couldn't resist clicking on a link to Chrysler's Web server, where you poked around to see if there was any information about the

omist and brought a pornographic magazine cover to your screen. Later, you used one of those Webcrawling search engines to find information about a

IBM to gain SNA-to-NetWare gateway

By Bob Wallace

IBM is expected to announce shortly that it will take over development and technical support for Novell, Inc.'s NetWare for Systems

Applications Architecture (SAA) LAN-to-host gateway

Under the arrangement, Novell would continue to market NetWare for SAA, according to sources close to the vendors

"IBM is in the process of negotiating the deal, and it's 99% wrapped up," said one of the sources, who requested anonymity. "And barring a major unforeseen event, the agreement should be formally announced later this month."

NetWare is Novell's LAN operating system; SAA is a set of

common interfaces that let users easily share and shuttle information among IBM mainframes, minicomputers and desktop systems.

This most recent twist gives IBM a solid gateway from SNA to Net-Ware, said one analyst who re-

Another analyst said the move

dors' customers," said Tom Nolle, president of CIMI Corp., a Voor-

would make good strategic sense. Users want to see Novell turn its

"There's benefits for both ven-

The evolution of IBM's Systems
Application Architecture (SAA) IBM formally announces SAA BM demonstrates how SAA could vell announces NetWare for SAA

hees, N.J., consultancy. "IBM users will be most impressed because IBM has far more knowledge of SNA and SNA integration issues. Novell users, for their part, "will be happy because the company will be able to focus their resources on products that are evangelistic and

IBM negotiates takeover of development and support for the LAN-to-mainframe gateway product from Novell

others that are more widely used,"

attention to other products. "Novell is facing challenges to its core business, what with the

rise of TCP/IP and the arrival of Windows 95," said Bill Horst, chief of the General Services Administration's communications branch in Philadelphia. "IBM can do more with NetWare for SAA than Novell.

Nolle said there is truth to the claim that Novell doesn't have what it takes to continue developing and supporting NetWare for SAA. "And it's very likely that IBM can expand the base of users for the product," he added.

One source said there is some overlap between Net-Ware for SAA and IBM's Communications Manager 2, which is an OS/2-based communications product that provides SNA gateway features and limited terminal emulation support. IBM won't stop selling Communications Man-

Anthes is Computerworld's senior editor, government and security.



AT&T takes Internet

By Neal Weinberg

By virtue of its size, AT&T Corp. has created a major splash with its recent dive into the pool of companies offering Internet business services.

Whether AT&T does a belly flop re-

mains to be seen, analysts say, because the company's announcement was short on details, and the market for Internet commerce is still in its infancy.

But AT&T has joined Microsoft Corp., IBM, MCI Corp. and others as the players to watch in the emerging market of providing ways for companies to do business on the 'net.

AT&T has created three business units: AT&T WorldNet Services will give customers dial-up and dedicated Internet access; Hosting and Transactions Services will handle secure sales transactions; and Content Services will offer tailored information.

Technical trials of the dial-up service will begin within 60 days, and national availability of managed Internet access is scheduled for Sept. 1.

David Taylor, vice president of electronic commerce strategies at Gartner

Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn., said AT&T is "serious about using the Internet as a major communications channel.

But until more details emerge on pricing and availability, the jury will remain out on whether AT&T will become

'net accords

AT&T's Internet service partners will provide the following:

ADOBE SYSTEMS: Acrobat software for viewing, navigating and

"It's like a land rush out there," Tay-

lor said. But, as history teaches, "just

being there first to settle the territory

doesn't mean anything; someone is go-

He said the race will be won by

"who's got the fastest wagon and who's

got the most horses." And that puts

But John Krick, senior analyst at Da-

tapro Information Services, Inc. in Del-

ran, N.J., said the Internet is such a

AT&T in an advantageous position.

ing to come along and shoot you."

printing text and images

a dominant player, he said.

NETSCAPE: Preconfigured browser

McKINLEY: Navigational tools

VERITY: Search agent

new arena that it is impossible to predict who the dominant parties will be. We'll see a number of new players in the next few years becoming major forces in the industry," he said.

AT&T has an abundance of resources, but new companies will be

able to compete on the basis of innovation, Krick said.

Just a tov

Taylor cautions that despite all the hype, the Internet will be only one channel for doing business. He explained that the Internet reaches large numbers of people but not necessarily the right people

"For most people, the Internet is a research tool and toy but not something to do serious business over. Everybody I talk to is reluctant to commit a lot of data to traveling over the Internet," Taylor said.

Before companies risk putting sensitive information on the Internet, a service provider will have to step up with an ironclad guarantee that the data will be safe, Taylor said.

works for dealing with customers.

demographically.

Even then, many companies will want to create their own private net-

By Thomas Hoffman

Call it a virtual bank branch minus the brick and mortar.

That is what Visa International, Inc. and Worlds, Inc.

began creating earlier this month for Visa's 19,000 member banks.

Using Worlds' Virtual Reality Modeling Language+ software, the firms are developing a three-dimensional representation of bank branches

By the end of the year, on-line consumers will be able to tap into these branches to check account balances or conduct interactive chats with loan officers.

The Electronic

Courtyard, as the system is called, will also allow cybershoppers to view and purchase retail merchandise over the World Wide Web. Visa's remote hank-

ing subsidiary. Visa Interactive, will link banks, merchants and on-line consumers and handle the back-end trans-

action processing. Electronic commerce will be se-

cured through 3-D the exchanges using the Secure Transaction Technology

specification that Visa is expected to publish with partner Microsoft Corp. next month [CW, July 31].

While on-line banking should appeal to institutions trying to reduce or eliminate the costs of traditional branch banking, it is unclear whether the Visa/Worlds initiative will gain widespread acceptance among Visa member

banks or merchants

Checking \$ 37.68

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Visa and Worlds' Electronic Courtyard

will let cubershoppers do banking as

well as nurchase retail merchandise

"The biggest problem I have with what Visa and Microsoft are doing is that they're creating closed systemsyou have to be a part of Visa Interactive or The Microsoft Network," said Bill Randle, director of marketing and strategic planning at Huntington Bancshares, Inc. "I think there are a lot of banks that won't participate in that closed environment.

A Visa spokesman said the company briefed representatives of its Top 100 member banks about its virtual banking initiative earlier this month. However, he declined to disclose which member banks or merchants - if any - have agreed to post a Web page on the Electronic Courtyard.

Banking dichotomy

Meanwhile, banking experts are divided on whether historically conservative banks are ready to make the leap to 3-D.

"Banks are just getting used to the idea of electronic commerce taking place over networks they don't own. 3-D banking isn't even in its infancy yet. It's embryonic," said Mark Hardie, a technology analyst at The Tower Group, a Wellesley, Mass.-based financial services technology consultancy.

But Richard T. Griffith, a former Bank of America executive, disagreed. "The wise banks are going to dramatically overhaul their traditional delivery mechanisms," said Griffith, a principal at Griffith & Associates, a San Francisco-based banking consultancy.



The World Wide Web, like other human ommunities, is not color blind. In fact, the Web sports many sites dedicated to specific ethnicities as well as to more general minority groups. Here are a few business and technology sites aimed at women and minorities.

New on the Web is Digital New on the Web is Digital Women's site at htp://www.pmedia.com/cybergrit/dw/dw.html. Digital Women is a New York-based nonprofit group that provides women and girls with technology equipment and training. The group is looking for donations of used computers and volunteers to teach seminars. and volunteers to teach seminars.

Check out http://www.sdsu.edu/wit for the Women in Technology Directory, a listing of names, numbers, areas of expertise and other pertinent data on women in IS, engineering and other technical fields. Looking for female Unix programmers with experience in the financial services industry with whom to share war stories? Start a search here.

Web India at http://www.webindia.com is a well-constructed site aimed at business and technology related to India. Information on business and technology opportunities in India as well as Indian-owned companies worldwide resides here

Comline Business Data runs a daily news service that reports on the high-tech and financial industries in Japan. See http://www.twics.com/-comline/home.html for reports on how many Japanese homes have PCs and what they do with them, the latest products from Japanese computer makers and many other topics. English-Japanese translation services are also available.

The Asian-American Business Association (AABA) at http://spidey.usc.edu/~milanie/ aaba was created to help Asian-American college students prepare to enter the business world. The site is thin on content, but it should be enhanced once the school year starts in September, AABA officials

A group of Chinese networking professionals started the Chinese Information and Netstarted the criniese information and Net-working Association in 1992 to swap shop talk. Since then, 300 people have joined, according to the group's home page, at https://www.almnet.com/cina/cina.html. The group arranges all manner of business and S seminars and occasionally lists job openings at Silicon Valley-area companies.

At the National Black Data Processing Associates' site, users can tap into the year-old group's extensive calendar of events related to furthering the IS careers of minorities. The site, at htp://www.letand.stanford.edu/group/bgsa/bdpa/bdpa.html, also holds information about the group's nationwide network of bulletin boards.

For black entrepreneurs and small business owners, MelaNet at http://www.melanet.com/melanet is worth a cruise. The site was built to help black-owned businesses market products. It also houses reference material and demographic information on blacks and links to other black-oriented

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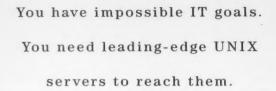
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Windows NT and across UNIX platforms from AT&T, Digital, Hewlett-Packard, Silicon Graphics, and Sun. So, if you want your people totally connected, don't just wire their computers: Hotlink their information.



NETSCAPE

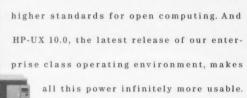
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Novell unwraps developer, | Aspect brings telephony home marketing assistance

By Laura DiDio

With an eye toward helping developers bring NetWare 4.x applications to market more quickly, Novell, Inc. last week officially launched its Novell Directory Assistance (NDA) technical and marketing assistance program.

The program, which has been in a trial period for the past nine months, met with approval from end

users

NetWare applications

"Users like myself don't buy strategies; we buy prod-

ucts. I'm all for any initiative that will get good applications to market faster," said Glenn Madsen, senior network management engineer at Pacific Bell's LAN Management Center in Dublin, Calif. Pacific Bell has been using NetWare 4.1 since the beginning of the year.

The NDA program has two prongs: Novell-sponsored "developer kitchens" and cooperative marketing opportunities. Both are aimed at bringing a wide array of new applications that are "aware" of NetWare Directory Services (NDS) to market faster, by cutting down on the time it takes to build those applications.

The developer kitchens are a series of two-day technical events held monthly at Novell's corporate headquarters in Orem, Utah.

They are designed to give independent software vendors in-depth technical expertise and oneon-one assistance from Novell engineers working on NDS-aware applications, said Scott Wells, Novell's senior manager for independent ware vendor marketing.

soft-Novell charges \$250 for the first person in an organization to take the class. The price is discounted to \$150 for any additional people from the same firm who attend the course. The fee also entitles the company to priority developer support

when they call Novell's technical support lines, Wells said.

Novell has also refined its software developers' tool kits for the NetWare 4.1 platform, adding more tools, application programming interfaces (API) and hooks into the source code to make the applications NDSaware

On the marketing side, Novell will work with its independent software vendor partners in joint advertising, direct mail campaigns, road shows and other marketing efforts.



By Mindy Blodgett

The task of managing users in homebased or remote offices should get a little easier, thanks to a new call management software package that provides telephony capabilities to PCs.

Aspect WinSet for Windows, introduced last week by Aspect Telecommunications in San Jose, Calif., also makes it simpler and faster to distribute telephone calls from the main office to remote workers.

The software essentially consolidates computer and telephony functions onto the PC. Users can connect via standard phone lines, Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or wide-area networks.

In addition, the product offers realtime information on workers and calls. allowing supervisors to more easily monitor performance.

A pledge to callers

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Missouri in Kansas City, already uses Aspect Win-Set, which is installed at its subsidiary. Trisource Health Care, Inc. The pediatric health center uses the software to ensure that all phone calls will be answered even if the on-site operators are busy.

Using Aspect's Automatic Call Distributor feature, the system siphons calls to off-site operators using a frame-relay connection running over a wide-area network. This means calls get processed more quickly and patients don't get put on hold

Elaine Willis, telecommunications manager at Blue Cross/Blue Shield, said the system has vastly improved patient service and makes it easy to track calls. Trisource can now link several health centers to its central call center using a single number for all calls

Willis said the company is considering

installing the system for telemarketers and telecommuting insurance agents.

"With real estate so expensive, it just makes sense to have some people working remotely rather than setting up offices," Willis said.

Aspect WinSet is based on the Telephone Application Programming Interface standard, which is a specification embedding telephony control into software applications. It works with TCP/IP modes, so users are able to choose the connection method.

Features of Aspect WinSet for

- Consolidates computer and telephony functions onto the PC
- Utilizes a Windows GUI
- Provides access to speed-dial lists and visual prompts when a call exceeds a specified length
- Gives users a single interface for functions such as viewing information such as call directories and communication with managers

The connection methods include the following:

- · Using two standard analog telephone lines. One line supports a voice connection with Aspect's automatic call distributor and the user's analog telephone. The second line connects the TCP/IP network and the PC modem.
- · Data and voice connections over ISDN.
- · Linking an agent PC on a remote LAN to the office LAN via a WAN connection. A separate telephone line is also needed for the voice connection.

Aspect WinSet is available at a base price of \$2,700 per agent in a 16-agent configuration. Prices include the software, server, server software and a remote interface card.

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Moore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 59

to a server, information accessed and the paths taken to that information. The software even indicates which direction visitors are headed after leaving the site.

The firm's Personal Web Site software is the first of what doubtless will be a new class of highly sophisticated, Web-oriented monitoring and marketing tools.

A tool such as this highlights the inherent conflict between marketing and privacy, which can be distilled into two questions that evoke the image of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object: "What do you have to hide?" vs. Why do you want to know?

Aggregate statistical information about how Web site visitors navigate servers is of legitimate interest to Web site designers and owners, of course. But trafficking in information about Web users' personal preferences or habits is an invasion of privacy.

Before long, most of the Web resources

you look at and the paths you navigate within them may be tracked and categorized. That information can then be sold to the highest-bidding direct marketer without your knowledge or consent.

The U.S. Postal Service routinely sells change-of-address information to the Direct Marketing Association without the permission of postal patrons. Direct marketers no doubt will compile and sell their own lists of E-mail addresses

Web users may look for reassurance in home page pledges that say "Privacy assured. No surveillance of your browsing will be performed, and no information whatsoever about your use of this resource will be released to any third party for any reason."

But no matter how much privacy is promised, there won't be any way of telling whether anyone else knows how many times you ran that hilarious - but X-rated - cartoon animation you found on that server in Amsterdam.

Caveat browser.

Moore is Computerworld's senior editor, storage management.

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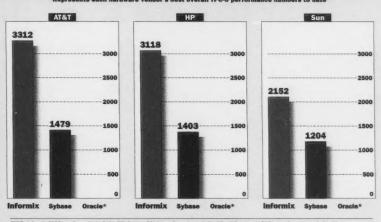
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*Oracle has not submitted TPC-C performance numbers

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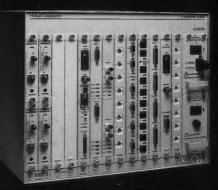
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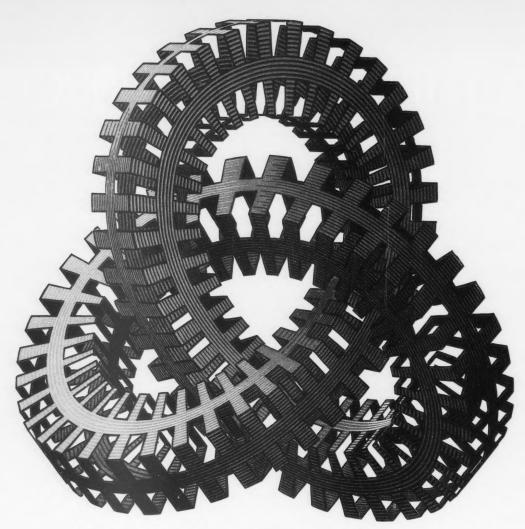
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NEW PRODUCTS, 72 DG EXPLOITS NEW ARCHITECTURE IN SERVER, 73

Large Systems

HARDWARE . SOFTWARE . CORPORATE STRATEGIES

IBM plans legacy bridges

MQSeries links allow access without code changes

Client/server

migration

By Craig Stedman ORLANDO, FLA.

BM is linking its newfangled MQSeries messaging middleware with mainframe-based IMS and CICS transaction processing applications. The move is aimed at making it easier for mainframe shops to close the gap separating their legacy and client/server systems.

To do this, IBM is building bridges, which company officials discussed at the Share, Inc. user group conference

here this month. The bridges will let MQSeries customers give users on other systems access to IMS or CICS applications without having to change the mainframe code.

Today, MQSeries calls have to be built into a mainframe program before the application can work with the middleware. MQSeries allows pieces of distributed applications on different systems to communicate via asynchronous messages. The messages are stored in queues so processing can continue while a response is formulated.

Compared with the current level of ties

between MOSeries and the transaction environments, the promised bridges 'will be like night and day. You won't have to touch your legacy code," said Anthony Slusz, a senior systems specialist at ITT Hartford Life Cos. in Hartford, Conn.

ITT Hartford uses IMS and CICS and is looking at MQSeries as a potential communications vehicle, "especially for some of our big applications that have partly moved off the mainframe" to

smaller systems, Slusz said. Users on those systems need to get at the data left on the mainframe, and MQSeries -

with direct bridges into IMS and CICS would provide "a real cheap and easy opportunity to do that," he added.

However, it will be almost a year before IBM's bridging plan starts to become a reality - and even then, only IMS will be supported.

An IMS bridge is planned for the next release of MQSeries for MVS due in mid-1996, said Stuart Jones, a technical strategy planner at IBM's UK software laboratory in Hursley Park, England. The bridge will make data requests from nonmainframe users look like typical IMS inputs, he said.

The bridge to CICS will take longer to finish because that product is tied more closely to 3270 terminal mode than is IMS, according to Jones. Mainframe CICS applications are designed specifically for 3270 screen formats. whereas IMS uses a more message-like approach that is easi-

er to adapt to MOSeries.

Building the bridge "requires changes in CICS as well as MQSeries," Jones said. "It's an obvious thing to do, but it's much more difficult." Shipment plans are uncertain because the project will have to be coordinated with IBM's ongoing development of CICS, he added.

As a result, the CICS plans amount to only "a good statement of direction" that holds the potential to simplify the task of connecting MQSeries to CICS applications, said Jerry St. Marie, manager of on-line systems solutions at Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Hart-

The bridge would provide "more flexibility on the legacy systems side," St.

The middle isn't holding into the following areas NOTES Bridge for connecting Notes to other Unsupported early quarter 1996 OBJECTS C++ object binding Third-quarter 1996 support Ability to transport objects with IBM's Not specified DSOM technology Asynchronous object Not specified routing capabilities INTERNET Routing of electronic payments Not specified

> Marie said. But he noted it "has never come up in any of the conversations we've had with" IBM about MQSeries, which Connecticut Mutual has adopted as its communications infrastructure for distributed computing. IBM will have "to trick CICS somewhere" to make the bridge possible, he said.

Sally Cusack, an analyst at The Standish Group International, Inc. in Dennis, Mass., said an easier way "to have the old with the new" is important because MQSeries is being bought primarily by large corporate data processing environments that are heavy IMS and CICS users. "It still is very much a product that is used by the big shops" because of its complexity, she said.

The issue: Data View Use of client/server applications will continue to grow in the next two years, with three-tier apps gaining the most 1995 (6) 3-tier 2-tier Non-client/server applications 37.7% 1997*

Source: Strategic Focus, Milpitas, Calif.

Base: 652 sites developing or implementing

Parallel processing wins film role

Digital production studio casts Convex to provide imaging infrastructure

By Michael Goldberg

Striving for the ability to render video special effects at warp speed, a new German film production center has tapped a Convex Computer Corp. parallel processing system as its entertainment engine.

The \$70 million High Tech Center Babelsberg, a government-funded digital film production studio in Potsdam, Germany, wants to be a global hub for realtime rendering of animated images. It will use high-end facilities that small 'special effects boutiques" can't afford, said Peter Krieg, the center's director.

"We're going to be like a high-grade media Kinko's," he said.

Choosy about chips

Krieg said the High Tech Center, due to be up and running this fall, will use a 64processor Convex Exemplar SPP 1000 system to provide the computing infrastructure needed for image scanning, motion control and three-dimensional virtual settings. The center plans to expand its Convex system next year to include 128 RISC 7100 processors from Hewlett-Packard Co. when its new studios are built, Krieg said.

After a public bidding process, the German film center picked the Convex machine because of its commitment to the HP chips, Krieg said. He said studio officials also considered a system from Cray Research, Inc. but feared that its use of Digital Equipment Corp.'s Alpha chips made for an uncertain growth path.



A French special effects maker used Mental Images Software on an HP 9000 workstation to create 3-D images for The City of Lost Children, a film due out in November

Announced at the Siggraph show in Los Angeles Aug. 7, the win by Richardson, Texas-based Convex shows that the entertainment industry's demands for processing power have reached levels traditionally dominated by scientists and engineers. It also ratifies Convex's recent moves to embrace a more open, scalable parallel architecture, said analyst Gary Smaby at The Smaby Group in Minneapolis

The High Tech Center will use rendering software called Mental Ray by Mental Images Software in Berlin, Germany. Softimage, Inc., a Microsoft Corp. subsidiary, includes Mental Ray in its 3D Extreme animation package. The package has been used to produce special effects in Hollywood movies such as The Mask and Casper, according to a Film, page 73

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IBM has announced Visualization Data Explorer 3.1, a tool for data visualization and analysis.

According to IBM's Research Division in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., Visualization Data Explorer 3.1 lets users take data generated by models, simulations, experiments and commercial applications

and convert it into two- or three-dimensional images

Data Explorer 3.1 supports a wide range of Unix platforms, including parallel performance on symmetric multiprocessors (SMP) models from IBM, Sun Microsystems, Inc. and Silicon Graphics, Inc. (SGI). It is available on IBM's RISC System/6000, RS/6000 SP2 and selected models from SGI, Digital Equipment Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co., Sun and Data General Corp.

licenses starts at \$5,900. Pricing for the SMP version starts at \$9,400.

▶ IBM (914) 945-3982

Andyne Computing Ltd. has rolled out GQL Decision Support System 3.3.2, an ad hoc query and reporting tool for relational data sources.

According to the Kingston, Ontario, company, GQL Decision Support System

Pricing for uniprocessor node locked 3.3.2 lets nontechnical users query and report on information in relational databases. GQL Decision Support System 3.3.2 includes a feature that automatically resolves interdependent calculations, a time-based governor that protects database systems from overly long queries and a scripting facility that helps automate routine tasks.

> Pricing for GQL Decision Support System 3.3.2 starts at \$495 per user copy.

▶Andyne Computing (613) 548-4355

Cranel, Inc. has introduced RAIDworks 1000, a RAID subsystem.

According to the Columbus, Ohio, company, RAIDworks 1000 provides 3G to 20G bytes of magnetic storage. It appears as a single SCSI disk drive to the host computer.

RAIDworks 1000 uses integrated drive electronics (IDE) drive technology, which eliminates the setup time of SCSI-based RAID systems. It features a RAID striping algorithm that is designed into an integrated circuit chip for the RAID controller. The system also includes a battery-backed cache buffer and a loadsharing power supply.

RAIDworks 1000 has a cable-free disk drive design, with the IDE drives in frame-based carriers that connect to the hardware controller through a slot con-

RAIDworks 1000 is available in fiveand 10-drive models. The 10-drive model is available only as an external box. Pricing for the five-drive model starts at \$5,616. Pricing for the 10-drive, 6.8G-byte model starts at \$8,274 and at \$12,614 for the 13G-byte model.

▶ Cranel (614) 431-8000

NetSoft has introduced the NS/Elite Folders Bundle, a product for IBM AS/400 connectivity.

According to the Irvine, Calif., company, the NS/Elite Folders Bundle is a Microsoft Corp. Windows 3.1-based communications software package. It combines 5250 display and printer emulation, file transfer and native Windows access to the AS/400 Shared Folders facility.

The product offers multisession display, an icon tool bar with scalable fonts and color attributes, SQL-based data download and data transfer upload. It incorporates the NetSoft/Router, a router for Windows-to-AS/400 connectivity.

The single-user price of NS/Elite Folders Bundle is \$295. AS/400 processorbased licenses are also available.

▶ NetSoft (714) 753-0800

Product short

Lysis Corp. has introduced IBM AS/400 server support to its Shared Information System 2100, artificial intelligence software used for technical support hot lines. It now provides a native AS/400 customer service application that uses three-tiered client/server processing and graphical user interfaces. Cost: starts at \$35,000 for a 10-user license. Lysis, Atlanta, Ga. (404) 892-3301.

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Unix alters IS picture Data General for Kodak Malaysia

In retrospect, Eastman Kodak Co.'s decision to go with Unix as its worldwide standard was perhaps the easiest part of the company's migration to open systems. Because here in Malaysia at least, getting there from the company's crop of proprietary systems was no trivial

Toward the end of last year, it became clear to Kodak's information systems groups around the world that their IBM System 36s could not sustain the company's projected business growth, so Kodak elected to standardize on IBM's Unix-based RS/6000.

"From that moment of deciding on the RISC machine, our next objective was to move our applications, originally based on the development tool RPG, onto the new platform," said Rosmawar Mohd Yusof, IS manager at Kodak

To move all the applications, Yusof needed to find a means of running the RPG-based applications on Unix. Her team evaluated two interface translators and settled on Uniball.

For the following five months, "all we did was customize all our applications to run on the RS/6000," Yusof said. "The migration is totally transparent to users, as they still see the same screen and mostly use the same commands as

Problems abounded during the switch. First,

ing. Next, some programs corrupted in translation, and someone had to be assigned to handcarry those programs from Kodak's Asia Pacific headquarters in Japan, Yusof said.

Yusof said other Kodak IS staffers in the Asia Pacific region are working with vendors such as Oracle Corp. to develop new financial and logistics systems for the RS/6000. "These packages are to provide us with better, interactive, real-time applications," she said.

The company's selection of the RS/6000 on a worldwide basis has also given rise to abundant opportunities to streamline operations.

For starters, the IS team at the corporate level has designed the Kodak Network, which allows Malaysia IS staffers to sign on to any of Kodak's RS/6000 machines in the region. As a result, the Malaysia IS team can tap into, say, the Australia information technology group to ask for its Unix expertise.

The company has also installed a leased line. "File transfer is very much improved," Yusof said. "Previously, when we needed to send a file down to our Singapore office, we would have to have the file copied onto a diskette and then dispatched by courier. Now, however, we just have to dial up to Singapore and have it sent within

Wong writes for Computerworld Malaysia.

server exploits new architecture

Technology trades speed for bandwidth

Symmetrical

multiprocessing

By Neal Weinberg

In its new high-end server, Data General Corp. is using an emerging architecture called NUMA, or Non-Uniform Memory Access, to break through barriers that have limited the scalability

of symmetrical multiprocessing (SMP) machines.

DG last week introduced its Aviion AV 10000, a machine based on the NUMA architecture that scales to 32

processors. Analysts say NUMA could gain in popularity as vendors try to boost server performance without

which would require an entire soft-

Everyone is faced with the is-

sue of how to coordinate more pro-

cessors to tackle big jobs," such as

data warehousing or data mining,

said Jonathan Eunice, an analyst

"Everyone can do four to eight

at Illuminata in Nashua, N.H.

processors; most can

do 12 to 16," he said.

'Thereafter, it gets harder and harder."

That is because un-

der the standard SMP

configuration of Uni-

ware conversion.

cessor board, easing bus traffic

NUMA creates a distinction between "near memory access" and "far memory access," such that data that resides farther away from the processor is retrieved more slowly.

By trading off on response time, NUMA gains "more bandwidth on the bus.' said Jay Bretzmann,

multichip

an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

Bretzmann said universities have experimented with NUMA. but the architecture has not vet broken through to commercial computing. He predicted that

once the industry moves toward commodity motherboards, "then you'll see more NUMA systems come out. Bretzmann said DG is putting itself "at the forefront" of that

Speed demon

having to take the leap to massive-Around the bend ly parallel processing systems,

In the first quarter of 1996, DG is expected to come out with what Eunice calls a "commodity supercomputer," an SMP machine based on Intel Corp.'s P6 chip packaged multiprocessor motherboards using the NUMA architec-

Ray Duchscherer, managing director of Sabre Travel Information

Network in Fort Worth. uses DG's 16-processor servers in the reservation systems he designs for travel agencies.

Duchscherer said he is looking forward to the 32-processor machines for their ca-

pability and power. "When I get a really big customer, it's going to come in really handy," he said.

However, not all users need that much firepower. Kevin Reilly, information systems administrator at Richardson Electronics, Inc. in LaFox, Ill., has two Aviion 9500 machines, each with four processors. He said he has plenty of upgrade room on the 9500 before he has to "change chassis.

Briefs

Mmm, mmm, outsourcing!

Campbell Soup Co. in Camden, N.J., has signed an outsourcing contract that it hopes will save it \$180 million over 10 years. The contract gives responsibility for a large chunk of Campbell's mainframe, midrange and desktop systems to IBM's Integrated Systems Solutions Corp. (ISSC). Campbell's internal informations systems group will concentrate on developing strategic

business applications, while ISSC will handle mainframe, midrange and desktop systems. Meanwhile, National Steel Corp. signed a seven-year deal with SHL Systemhouse, Inc., which will assume operational responsibility for the Mishawaka, Ind.based steel company's IS operations

IBM, SAP to join in support

IBM and SAP AG have signed a worldwide cooperative support agreement to provide 24-hour service and support to companies integrating SAP R/3 client/server applications on IBM RS/6000 machines.

Film

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 69

The High Tech Center belsberg, located on

Krieg said the High Tech Center would use high-speed Asynchronous Transfer Mode technology to transmit video and sound images to clients at remote sites. The center, which won't produce its own works, expects most

of its early clients to come from North America. Its first slated project this fall is rendering the 3-D backdrops for Dark Zone, a four-part science fiction series for German and Canadian

While Krieg said the High Tech Center expects the Warner Bros. studios to be a client, other smaller special effects makers said they were impressed with the Convex processing power but skeptical of the German-based model. They expressed concern over the cost of remote transmissions, the compatibility of their imaging software with the High Tech Center's and a loss of control over production.

"It's not just the computing power; it's getting the massive amounts of data there and back," said Bob Curley, a computer scientist at Rhythm & Hues Studios in Los Angeles.

Short time

88100 chip, which Data General is phasing out in favor of Intel's P6.

form Memory Access (UMA), all processors are required to provide equal access to data stored in memory. In other words, "every time a

CPU needs data, no matter what CPU or where the data is, it takes the same amount of time to get it," But as the number of processors

increase, there is so much traffic over the buses that bottlenecks occur and performance suffers.

What NUMA does is integrate a portion of memory onto the pro-

CLIENT? SERVER?

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OBJECT TOOLS FOR WIN 95 EMERGE, 76 **NEW PRODUCTS, 77**

Application Development

CASE . LANGUAGES . TOOLS

Visual Basic shifts focus

Improved, added enterprise features challenge Delphi

By Christopher Lindquist

By now you've no doubt heard the talk about how much faster Borland International, Inc.'s Delphi is than Microsoft Corp.'s Visual Basic 3.0. Perhaps you've even discovered this truth for yourself. Then along comes Visual Basic 4.0 Enterprise Edition, which may prove that the product that compiles and runs fastest still may not win the corporate race.

Little has changed on the surface, and that benefits those thousands of developers already fa-

The product. most obvious improvement

advantage - to Visual Basic 4.0 Enterprise Edition is that it supports 32-bit environments, including Microsoft's Windows NT 3.5 and Win-

Visual Basic 4.0 now includes support for Windows 95 controls, such as Image List, Status Bar and Plug & Play Control. Delphi does not have such support nor will it until Borland's next release due this fall. Visual Basic 4.0 also includes support for creating 16-bit applications for use under Windows 3.1, which provides a migration path for users who

Visual Basic, page 77



Visual Basic 4.0 Enterprise Edition now supports 32-bit envi-

ronments, including Windows NT 3.5 and Windows 95

Object tools

++ standard binds rivals

By Elizabeth Heichler SANFRANCISCO

A recently finalized standard for C++ may bolster developers' confidence in the objectoriented program-

ming language. Rival firms, including Borland In-

ternational. Inc., Symantec Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co., are already rallying around the draft standard, with promises to release compatible products by early next year. The companies would not release details about those products.

Developers cheer

Developers agreed that a standard for C++ - the dominant object-oriented programming language, according to International Data Corp. - will protect their investment in applications developed with the language.

"From a personal point of view, it's good to know that your skills will be portable. And from a professional point of view, it's good to know that code you develop is portable to different en-

software designer at Atlantis Scientific Systems, Inc. in Ottawa. Leir said he plans to use C++ to develop image processing systems and has decided to

work with the language in part because of the standardization effort's

Two in one

Rogue Wave Software,

Chief Executive Officer

Tom Keffer proposes

that C++ be viewed as

environments in one

"Bottom C++" is the

language, for building

manipulating already

assembled objects.

objects, while "Ton

C++" is a relatively

simple tool for

more complicated

two language

Inc.'s President and

progress. The draft C++ standard, a joint effort of the American National Standards Institute and

the International Standards Organization, is now frozen and available for public review. It will be formally published later next year.

A standard for C++ helps to address some of the reasons that developers have chosen not to work with the language. particularly the incompatibility of different vendors' C++ implementations, according to problem has been that C++ class libraries — pre-existing building blocks of code - often don't work with all C++ development environments.

Another myth C++ backers hope to dispel is that the language is too complex for most corporate developers to tackle, said Bjarne Stroustrup, AT&T Bell Laboratories fellow and the original developer of the extensions to the C language that

evolved into C++. Developers can

choose to use C++ for the less complex task of assembling software components or to tackle the more difficult work of actually building the components themselves, he explained.

C++ has been criticized for not forcing developers to write strictly object-oriented Smalltalk does enforce this.



Next's WebObjects

- WebObjects adds a Hypertext Markup Language presentation layer atop object-oriented applications.
- World Wide Web users can also access non-object data. such as information stored in relational databases, via WebObjects' interface with Next's year-old Enterprise Objects Framework.
- · Programs built with WebObjects can talk to OLE objects through Next's Distributed OLE for Windows.

Next? Object tools for Web

WebObjects taps into corporate database

By Kim S. Nash

f anyone can evangelize object-oriented development for cyberspace, it's Steve Jobs.

Jobs, chief executive officer at Next Computer, Inc., recently announced WebObjects, a tool set for building applications for the World Wide Web. The object-oriented tool cuts application development time by five to 10 times compared with existing client/servertools, Jobs claimed.

This has not been proved, however, as WebObjects has yet to enter beta testing at any information systems shops. Testing is slated to start immediately, Jobs said, with general availablity scheduled for the first quarter of next year.

Multiple on-ramps

With WebObjects, users can build applications that, for example, add a Web-readable Hypertext Markup Language layer on top of corporate data or applica-

That means end users can access legacy data or in-use applications via browsers from Netscape Communications Corp., Spyglass, Inc. or others, said John Landwhere, a product manager at Next in Redwood City,

Web users wouldn't have to rely on separate, manual updates of information at Web sites, noted Richard Shaffer, editor of "ComputerLetter," a New Yorkbased newsletter.

That capability in WebObjects and similar tools due from Parc-Place-Digitalk, Inc. "is a conceptual leap," Shaffer said.

For security, WebObjects also supports the Secure Sockets Layer and Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol.

Next outlined other key capabilities of WebObjects at the show (see chart).

"If what they say is true, and I have no reason to doubt it, this is a killer set of tools," said Mike Adelson, director of application development at Chrysler Financial Corp. in Littleton, Ill.

Far-out features

High on Adelson's list of "really cool" WebObject features is the ability for developers to build Web applications that can access corporate data stored in relational databases, he said. He saw an early version of WebObjects demonstrated two weeks ago at the Object World conference in San Francisco (see story at left).

Yet Next is not alone - not by a long shot. Oracle Corp. in Redwood Shores, Calif., also plans to ship a suite of Web development tools in the same time frame: first-quarter 1996. Mountain View, Calif.-based Netscape also plans to launch development products next year.

Object tools for Win 95 emerge

By Elizabeth Heichler SANFRANCISCO

The first Windows 95 object-oriented development packages were on view at Object World, held here two weeks ago.

In some cases, the Windows 95 products represent the object-oriented tool makers' first forays into the desktop PC environment. They include Cadre Technologies, Inc.'s ObjectTeam for OMT and Micro Focus, Inc.'s Visual Object Cobol 1.0 for Windows 95

But what sets these tools, as well as Franz, Inc.'s Allegro CL 3.0 for Windows, apart from their predecessors is that they take advantage of the new operating system to deliver a more visual development environment, observers said.

An early user of Visual Object Cobol 1.0 for Windows 95 praised the extent to which it integrates tool features with the full look and feel of the operating system.

integrated into the development environment, said Steve Rabin, chief technologist at American Software, Inc. in Edgartown, Mass. "It's also got very good support for multithreading and OLE automation," Rabin added, making it easier to develop applications that take advantage of these Windows 95 features.

Users of the Cobol tool from Palo Alto, Calif.-based Micro Focus said they are pleased with the native Win32 class library for graphical user interface objects, which is needed to build user interfaces that conform to Windows 95.

Cadre, in Providence, R.I., has also built "a nice object browser" into the Windows 95 user interface with its Object Team for OMT tool, according to a customer who requested anonymity. Users can access the entire development repository and browse it in many ways.

The Cadre product is the company's

first release of a development environment implementing the Object Modeling Technique (OMT) methodology, which it acquired when it bought Dutch software firm Westmount Technologies Corp. earlier this year. OMT is the most popular object-oriented methodology, with 32% of the market, according to Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn.

Cadre's product can generate code in C++, Ada, Smalltalk, embedded SQL and the fourth-generation language used by Informix Software, Inc.'s NewEra tool. Cadre is also working on extending the code generation to PowerScript, used in Powersoft Corp.'s PowerBuilder.

Meanwhile, Franz, in Berkeley, Calif., showed off its visual development tool for Windows 95, Allegro CL 3.0 for Windows.

Because it is based on the ANSI-standard Common Lisp Object System, it is the first dynamic object-oriented programming tool for Windows 95, Franz maintains. Dynamic languages allow developers to make changes to an application after it has been deployed without accessing the source code

Around the corner

New Windows 95 object-oriented development tools



Micro Focus, Inc.

Palo Alto, Calif. Visual Object Cobol 1.0 for Windows 95 \$499, shipping Oct. 1

Franz, Inc.

Berkeley, Calif Allegro CL 3.0 for Windows \$595, shipping in October

Cadre Technologies, Inc.

Providence, R.I. Object Team for OMT \$5,000, shipping at the end of September

Briefs

Macs to get Windows sockets

NetManage, Inc. has announced plans to enable the Macintosh operating system to support WinSock 1.1, the Windows Socket application programming interface (API) to TCP/IP network services. The San Jose, Calif., developer plans to extend the architecture of Apple Computer, Inc.'s Open Transport networking and communications sys-

tem to allow for cross-platform programming among Mac OS and Microsoft Corp.'s Windows, Windows NT and Windows 95. As a result, Windows software developers could easily develop TCP/IP networking applications for Mac OS, and corporate developers could gain a portable network API across both platforms, according to NetManage.

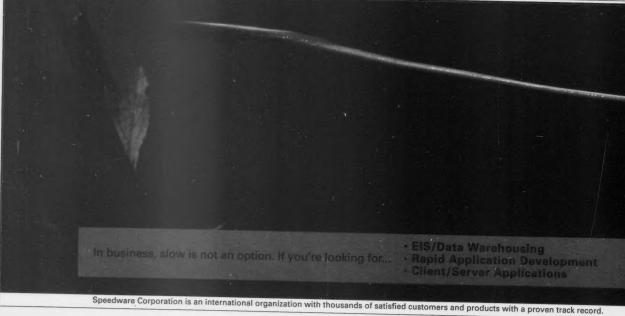
Warehouse helper arrives Software AG of North America, Inc. in Reston, Va., recently announced

SourcePoint, software that automates the process of populating data warehouses. Based on parallel data acquisition technology, SourcePoint simultaneously extracts, transports and loads data into a warehouse, a process that has been largely manual up until now, the company said. Pricing ranges from \$30,000 to \$129,000, depending on communications options.

Book it: Mainstream objects

Software development guru Ed Yourdon has co-authored a book from Pren-

tice-Hall. The book, Mainstream Objects: An Analysis and Design Approach for Business, was written with developers from Reston, Va.-based Software AG. It aims to define a new approach to solving business needs through object systems development. The book presents Software AG's framework for incorporating objectoriented techniques into design and analysis. It is 331 pages and costs \$35. Prentice-Hall can be reached at (800) 947-7700 or via electronic mail at orders@prenhall.com.



Application Development

THEM LIDGILLES

Texas Instruments, Inc. has introduced Arranger, a suite of development tools.

According to the Plano, Texas, company, Arranger lets users rapidly assemble and reuse business objects. It gives users immediate access to enterprise applications and data through OLE-based desktop applications.

Arranger is available in Standard and Professional editions. The Standard edition gives users tools to customize applications. It includes the Arranger Catalog, which maintains an inventory of business objects made available to the desktop user. The Professional edition was designed for information systems developers to enroll business objects into the Arranger Catalog.

Pricing is based on the number of developer and user seats. Pricing starts at \$495 for the Standard edition and \$2,495 for the Professional edition.

➤ Texas Instruments (214) 575-2000

Segue Software, Inc. has introduced QA Partner 3.0, a software testing tool.

According to the Newton, Mass., company, QA Partner 3.0 is a broad, integrated multiplatform testing product for QA users. It provides automated testing in an object-oriented architecture that can reuse the same test script across multiple platforms.

QA Partner 3.0 includes an Automated

Testframe Creation feature for unattended testing and recovery. This enables the creation of small modular test cases, each with the capability to be independent of the other. When an application being tested crashes, the recovery system records the error, restarts the test and continues.

Integrated test analysis and reporting features are available.

Pricing for single-user, single-platform licenses starts at \$2,995.

➤ Segue Software (617) 969-3771

System Software Associates, Inc. has introduced Object Development Workbench, a set of application development products.

According to the Chicago company, Ob-

ject Development Workbench consists of the following: Object Definition Facility (ODF), a specification layer in which all business objects are defined; Object Repository, a repository for the business objects; Gen/C++ for Windows, a generation layer that generates platformspecific code from the objects repository; and a deployment layer.

Based on the business objects stored in Object Repository, Gen/C++ for Windows generates executable object-oriented code for a Microsoft Corp. Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 environment.

Each of the three component products —ODF, Object Repository and Gen/C++ for Windows — is priced at \$2,500 per

➤ System Software Associates (312) 258-6000

Visual Basic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 75

might not be running Microsoft's latest and greatest yet.

However, the ability to run under Microsoft's newest operating system may pale when compared with the host of enterprise development features found in Visual Basic 4.0. Microsoft has apparently paid close attention to the concerns of corporate developers who need to build and manage scalable, enterprisewide applications. While products such as Visual Basic 3.0 and Delphi contain everything a developer might need for small projects, things could quickly spiral out of control as the number of users and developers grows.

Microsoft has addressed this scalability challenge in several ways, including a three-tiered development model, an integrated version control and configuration management system and the open-

Product

highlights

• Fully 32 bit, with

support for 16- and

32-bit deployment.

Can create

NT servers.

OLE automation

• Ships Sept. 12

servers, distribute

applications logic to

ing of Visual Basic as an OLE object that can be controlled by other applications such as computer-aided software engineering (CASE) tools.

Microsoft's three-tiered development model was designed to alleviate the bottlenecks some developers have encountered with Visual Basic when building client/server applications for a large number of users.

Middleman

In the model, applications are divided into User Services, Business Services and Data Services. In effect, nothing has changed from the traditional client/server model except for the introduction of a middleman, the Business Services layer. This layer was designed to manage user requests for data and

buffer those users from having to directly access the main server.

The User Services portion of the application becomes an interface to the Business Services layer. So when business rules change, only the Business Services portion of the application needs to be updated, rather than hundreds or possibly thousands of individual client workstations. Of course, this requires that the development of the application of the a

opers actually adhere to Microsoft's model to achieve the benefits.

Visual Basic 4.0 Enterprise Edition also comes complete with Microsoft's SourceSafe version control and configu-

ration management system. This goes a step beyond Borland's Delphi by actually including the tools necessary to manage code used by multiple developers for multiple projects.

The opening of Visual Basic as an OLE object gives Microsoft a chance to compel third-party developers, such as CASE tool makers, to use Visual Basic. One common use for this openness may be for developers to create their own versions of Microsoft's "Wizards" to help other developers create applications according to corporate standards.

Finally, it just wouldn't be a Microsoft product if it didn't include all the extras at a price lower than the competition: \$999 compared with \$1,999 for Delphi's Client Server edition.

Lindquist is technical editor at Electronic Entertainment and a regular contributor to Computerworld's Client/Server Journal.



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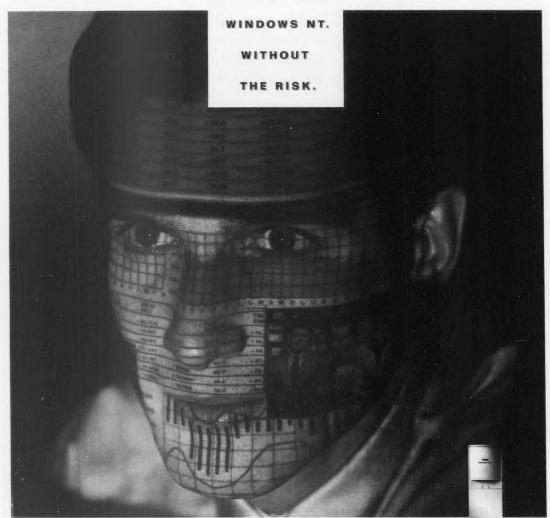


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Management

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AN IDG INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE REPORT

wo words describe British information systems manager Rene Carayol: armed and unwilling. "As an IT manager, I've been given a loaded gun. Business seems to be fixated on downsizing," he says.

But Carayol, a technical director at London-based IPC Magazines, doesn't want to shoot. He'd rather retrain his staff.

Carayol has plenty of company, particularly on his side of the Atlantic. In Europe, after a decade of wide-spread staff reductions, many companies are shying away from layoffs. They have found that regulations make downsizing an expensive and time-consuming process. In Italy and other countries, including Japan (see story, page 82), executives fear mass layoffs will stigmatize their companies.

Now when overseas firms tighten their belts, they focus on retraining and novel organizational feats to stay competitive without slashing their ranks. How are they doing? The ideas look promising, and some programs have saved jobs. But as in the U.S., alternatives to mass firings remain difficult to find for downsizing companies.

Downsizing, page 82

LEAN & NICE Foreign firms hope to save lobs by:

SEEDING START-UPS

EXPLORING TELECOMMUTING

RELOCATING EMPLOYEES

RETRAINING

Continued from page 81

JAPAN

Saving the salaryman

Fujitsu calls it a high-risk, highreturn management experiment. In reality, it is a scheme to trim some excess management weight.

Begun last year, Fujitsu's experiment lets employees quit a company and take a chance at their own business ventures. If after three years the company is profitable, the computer giant will buy it at an appropriate market price, and the employees will get their old jobs back.

If the company doesn't make it? The Tokyo unemployment office is in Iidabashi.

While small in scale — about 30 people have chosen the experiment, according to spokes-woman Yuri Momomoto — the Fujitsu project illustrates that Japanese companies are trying to weather their country's three-year recession without U.S.-style layoffs.

In a country where cradle-tograve job security is often expected, companies are under heavy social pressure to hold on to workers even through financially tough times.

As a result, many high-profile Japanese companies have found ways to shed workers without public backlash. Their methods include attrition, relocation and reassignment to subsidiary suppliers in the same business groups.

Big steel companies, including NKK and Kawasaki Steel Corp., have followed this path. By next March, NKK expects to lose 4,800 workers, most of whom will be reassigned among the company's myriad subsid-

Despite efforts to reduce labor costs, a huge midsection of white-collar managers still needs to be slimmed and made more productive if Japan hopes to regain its industrial might, consultants say.

"They just tinker with what they've got, but eventually they've got to go on a strict diet plan if they want to survive," says one U.S. consultant in Tokyo.

— Rob Guth, an IDG News correspondent in Tokyo

SEEDING START-UPS

An alternative to layoffs is the practice of seeding employee- or government-owned firms.

Digital Equipment Corp.'s plan to reduce its workforce by 20,000 employees worldwide,

Digital Equipment Corp.'s plan to reduce its workforce by 20,000 employees worldwide, announced last summer, led to strikes and picketing at some European sites. Last October, the company's German subsidiary decided to spin off one-third of its workforce into a separate, employee-owned company, saving 1,500 jobs.

The new company, called Ditec Informationstechnologie GmbH & Co. KG, will be partly financed by Digital. And Digital will ensure the salaries of the employees during the first year.

A similar solution was found at Alcatel SEL, the telecommunications giant's German branch. Alcatel saved jobs by making arrangements with municipal governments to take over some production facilities and employees and convert the plants into high-tech centers. In Mannheim, Germany, for example, 300 to 400 of the company's 570 positions will be saved, said Joachim Klein, a spokesman for Alcatel.

RETRAINING

Retraining is popular with labor unions, lawmakers and IS professionals.

In Germany, union officials and an IS association called the Network of Computer Science Professionals issued a first-ever joint declaration in April demanding training for IS specialists.

Last September, the European Union issued a directive to ensure that companies soften the impact of any corporate strategies that affect head count. The directive included retraining or job placement schemes.

But while many praise retraining as a way to gain loyalty and improve employee efficiency, it isn't a nanacea.

After downsizing in the early 1990s, Baxter Health Care has found computer training is not necessarily a substitute for the experience lost. The company has retrained some non-specialist employees such as those working in administrative positions, but results have been mixed.

"The computer is only a tool. If the person has no idea how to use it, then [retraining] doesn't help," says Alberto Rivas, supervisor of IS operations at Baxter Europe in Valencia, Spain, a subsidiary of the U.S. health care firm.

EXPLORING TELECOMMUTING

Consultants and IS vendors consider telecommuting (known as teleworking in Europe) a promising way to retain skilled workers sometime in the future.

"It is much more expensive [to lay off personnel] in Europe than in the U.S. That is hard to understand by some [of my] colleagues in the U.S."

by some [of my]
colleagues in the U.S."
Jean-Paul Loup, vice president
of human resources, IBM's
Europe, Middle East and
Africa division

"I don't see any real experimentation yet," said Gianni Marchetti, secretary general of UILM, an Ivrea, Italy-based union that represents workers at Italian computer vendor Ing. C. Olivetti & Co. "It will be years before we see any benefits from ideas like teleworking."

Cost is an obstacle, even though Integrated Services Digital Network lines are reasonably priced in Europe. Olivetti managers calculate it would initially cost about \$6,250 per person to equip each teleworker, according to Renato Casarotto, director of corporate human resources development, recruitment and training at UILM.

Managers also have a hard time envisioning how to organize telework for administrators. Still, Casarotto says he expects teleworking will reduce office infrastructure costs and travel time and is convinced telecommuting will take off in three to five years.

CREATING NEW JOBS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Some European managers make the argument that while information technology makes some jobs obsolete, it also spurs job growth in new areas. For employees and employers alike, the process is one of taking a step backward in order to take one or two forward.

Alliance & Leicester Building Society, a newly merged \$14 billion company in Leicester, England, has had to lay off personnel with overlapping responsibilities in the past two years. However, new telemarketing jobs were created after the company installed software that tracks and manages telephone calls for telesales employees.

"You could say that while information technology has not helped us avoid layoffs in some areas, it has helped create a new market and employment in others," says Alan Jackson, head of resource management for the group information services unit at the company.

But even if new jobs are created, there's no guarantee that the IS personnel who create these systems will remain with the same employer.

Car rental agency Europear recently installed a computer system that will make its reservation system identical in each of its European offices. The system didn't result in layoffs, but Europear outsourced most of its IS operations and personnel to Perot Systems Corp., said Malcolm Stirling, technical director at Europear in Villepinte, France.

In short, while start-ups have saved some jobs, U.S. IS managers hoping to find ways to downsize won't find many solutions overseas. Still, the efforts of foreign managers bear watching. If European managers don't find a magic bullet soon, the pressures of global competition will tear Europe's social safety net more than most Europeans can bear.

Written by IDG News correspondents, Marc Ferranti and Cara Cunningham in Paris, Elizabeth de Bony in Brussels, Ron Condon in London and Torsten Busse in Munich, Germany.

FRANCE

Laying off is hard to do

Reducing head count in Europe is a long, costly process. Just ask executives at IBM France.

uropeans are supported by a web of European Union and national labor laws intended to blunt the effects of employee reduction measures. These rules make layoffs a burden for employers.

"It is much more expensive [to lay off] in Europe than in the U.S.," says Jean-Paul Loup, vice president of human resources at IBM's Europe, Middle East and Africa division, based in Paris. "That is hard to understand by some [of my] colleagues in the U.S."

For example, the French government and unions are involved every time an employee leaves a company, even voluntarily. And because French workers sign binding employment contracts, the process gets even longer when workers disagree with a company's reengineering plan.

IBM France in October 1993 proposed a cost-cutting plan that involved laying off 3,000 workers. Following negotiations—during which the plan was modified to lay off only 1,700 employees and reduce all salaries by 7%—the plan was approved in November 1994 by the workers, with the support of the French labor minister.

But two of IBM France's five unions disagreed with the plan, and negotiations moved to the courtroom. Early this year, the company won, and its plan was finally enacted.

At one point, IBM France asked workers if they would agree to saving 1,300 jobs by taking a pay cut. While 95% agreed, 5% didn't. Because no bilateral agreement was reached with this minority, employees at IBM France can't modify their contracts.

— Marc Ferranti and Cara Cunningham, IDG news correspondents in Paris



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MANAGEMENT

Human Resource Management Services/Expo '95: The National Human Resources Information Technology Exposition and Conference. San Jose, Calif., Sept. 18-20 — Topics: human resources strategies and tactics, client/server applications, payroll and retirement systems, project management and human resources implementation, benefits and business process re-engineering. Contact: Dave Code, Blenheim NDN,

Calendar

SEPT. 18 - OCT. 13

Inc., Mountain View, Calif. (800) 232-3976.

The Second Annual National Business Process Rengineering (NBPR) Conference. Arlington, Va. Sept. 18-21 — Free conference will discuss how to identify and deal with the effects of re-engineering on employees and organizations; bene-

fits, drawbacks and effective use of rapidly changing business process re-engineering tools to support re-engineering efforts; and the latest innovative technologies and capabilities, such as Internet and document management used to support re-engineering activities. Contact:

NBPR '95. Falls Church, Va. (703) 761-0646.

The Information Technology Outsourcing Institute: Designing, Negotiating and Implementing Deals. San Francisco, Sept. 20-21 — Seminars include: "Developing Airtight Request for Proposals: Strategies of the Most Successful Purchasers"; "Objective and Subjective Metrics for Evaluating Vendor Proposals"; and "How to Obtain Competitive Pricing Throughout the Terms of the Deal." Contact: BDA, Inc., Washington (800) 394-3390.

The 1995 Computer Training and Support Conference. Orlando, Fla., Oct. 1-4 - Sessions include: "Emerging Technologies: Looking in the Crystal Ball"; "The Next Wave: Technologies for the Mobile Professional"; "Virus and Network Security Policies That Work"; "Software Licensing"; and "JAD, RAID and Software Development Methodologies." Keynote speakers: David Prentice, president of Learning Corp., on "Super-Charged Customer Service: A Personal Statement of Excellence"; Sue Miller Hurst, director of the Starshine Foundation, on "The Learning Edge"; and Elliot Masie, president of the Masie Center, on "Why Computer Users Say the Strangest Things." Fee: \$895. Contact: Soft Bank Institute, Medford, Mass. (617) 393-3344.

Re-engineering for Managers and Executives: Moving Benefits to the Bottom Line. Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 11-13 — Topics include: re-engineering overview, managing the process, change readiness, mobilization, visioning, case for action and re-engineering in practice. Contact: Kendall Institute, Inc., Scituate, Mass. (617) 544-3844.

INDUSTRIES

Cable Telephony '95. Denver, Sept. 19-20 — Topies: "The Business Case for Cable Telephony": "Cable Telephony Prescriptions for Success"; "Making It Work: Overcoming Technical and Operational Hurdles"; and "High-speed Data Service Deployment and Wireless Cable Telephony Delivery." Fee: S985. Contact: TeleStrategies, Inc., McLean, Va. (703) 734-7050.

Government Technology Conference East '95. Albany, N.Y., Sept. 20-21 —Contact: Maureen Torncello, Government Technology, Albany, N.Y. (518) 435-1106.

Stored Value Cards: Implementing State-of-the-Art Electronic Cash Applications. Washington, Sept. 2:-22 — Seminars include: "Taking Immediate Advantage of 21st Century Smart Card Opportunities"; "Visa Stored Value Cards: Capitalizing on the New Global Currency"; "Which Comes First — Commerce or Finance"; "Moving Beyond the 'New Toy' Technologies: How to Attract New Customers with Benefit-Packed Stored Value Card Systems"; "Building A Fully Functional Security and Card Operating System." Contact: The Center for Business Intelligence, Burlington, Mass. (800) 767-9499.

1995 NASIRE Annual Conference. San Antonio, Sept. 25-27 — Theme: "Founding the Information Republic: Meeting Citizens' Needs." Fees: \$295 for government employees, \$395 for National Association of State Information Resource Executives (NASIRE) members, \$595 for corporate nonmembers, \$100 for guests. Contact: NASIRE, Lexington, Ky. (606) 231-1905.

Graph Expo. Chicago, Oct. 8-11— Topics include: CD-ROM, on-line databases and direct digital and decentralized publishing through wide-area business networks. Contact: Graphical Arts Show Co., Reston, Va. (703) 264-7200.

USER GROUPS

The International Function Point Users Group (IFPUG) 1995 Fall Conference. Toronto, Sept. 18-22 — The conference will feature a variety of software metrics and project management topics, a training course on function point analysis, project estimating, management software measurement and quality and process improvement programs. Contact: David Longstreet, IFPUG, Westville. Ohio (614) 895-7130.

Unix Expo. New York, Sept. 19-21 — Sponsored by the New York LAN Association. Contact: Laura McQuaid, Blenheim Group, Fort Lee, N.J. (800) 829-3976, ext. 384.

XDB Sixth Annual International User Conference. Baltimore, Sept. 19-22 — Fee: \$675. Contact: Connie Handen, XDB Systems, Columbia, Md. (800) 488-4948.

SECURITY

VB '95: Virus Bulletin's Fifth Annual International Conference. Boston, Sept. 20-22 — Topics in Colder: introductory session on computer viruses, problems encountered by corporate security managers and what the technology will look like at the turn of the century. Contact: Virus Bulletin Ltd., Ridgefield, Conn. (203) 431-4720.

TECHNOLOGIES

Client/Server Economics Summit. Washington, Sept. 18-20 — Topics include: distributed systems support, advantages of deploying a request-tracking system, applying advanced systems and profiting from emerging technology, controlling the cost of migrating to client/server, networking challenges of client/server and deploying mission-critical systems in a client/server setting. Fee: \$1,195. Contact: Mary Clare Bennett, Client/Server Economics Summit Registration, San Francisco, Calif. (415) 905-2267.

Calendar announcements should be submitted at least six weeks prior to the event and include the title of the event, dates, location, theme or focus, keynote or major speakers, principal topics and a contact person, organization and phone number.

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The CW Guide to Client/Server Financials

Settling Cracks



By Paul Korzeniowski

Problems can show up in a move to client/server financials, but you will reap benefits in the long run

he Seattle Times decided a few years ago to bite the bullet: It would cap its mainframe expenses by moving applications needing major modifications to a client/server platform.

"We knew the transition to the new software would be painful," says Laurie Stanton, finance accounting manager at the newspaper. But last year, the company was able to hold its mainframe costs in check, Stanton adds.

In making its decision, the newspaper focused on easy-to-measure costs such as the price of PCs and Unix workstations compared with mainframes, Stanton says.

That line of thinking may be typical. Interviews with corporate managers indicate that they seem comfortable with relatively cursory looks at hidden expenses such as training. Thus, with mainframe costs in the millions of dollars and the combination of PCs and servers priced at about \$100,000, the decision to move to client/server can be a no-brainer.

Consequently, droves of companies are making or planning moves to client/server systems, and financial systems are among the first applications altered. Clare Gillan, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass., projects that worldwide sales of client/server financial systems will grow from \$922 million in 1994 to \$3.7 billion in 1999.

But the corporate stampede and promise of savings don't lessen the initial transition quakes or eliminate flaws in what may prove to be a generally successful strategy.

Valteck, Inc., an automobile components manufacturer in Springville, Utah, paid the price in terms of training when it switched from The Ask Group, Inc.'s Manman system running on a Hewlett-Packard Co. HP 3000 minicomputer to a Unix platform and Oracle Corp.'s Oracle Financials.

Valteck hired four full-time consultants, and a team of 25 employees

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Client/Server Financials

worked for six months on making the transition.

'Problems arose because our users did not understand client/server software and the consultants did not know how our business operated," says Greg Crandall, Valteck's director of marketing and information systems. "The change created a great deal of frustration.

Fruits of the labor

The good news is that Valteck was able to cost-justify its \$5 million investment.

First, Valteck was able to measure its return on investment by revenue per employee. When the company began installing the Oracle software, each employee generated \$118,000 in revenue. The number has risen to \$130,000 per person and the 1998 goal of \$140,000 per employee is in sight. Company officials say employees are more productive because of the number of tasks the system automates.

Second, the company's inventory system included many manual checks. The system automated those

duced errors and enabled tasks to be completed more quickly. The company expects to cut its accounts receivable turnaround from 62 days to 50

The corporate stampede and promise of savings don't lessen the initial transition quakes or eliminate flaws in what may prove to be a generally successful strategy.

functions, so the company manages its inventory more efficiently.

Also, the accounts receivable area eliminated manual input, which redays. This will allow Valteck to reduce the amount of interest it pays on its bills and collect more bank interest on its receipts.

Client/server based financials were also a nice fit for PRC Corp. in McLean, Va. The \$1 billion systems integrator decided in the fall of 1992 to replace its host-based Dun & Bradstreet Software financials package with a client/server system. Kelvin Goon, a vice president and general manager at PRC, says the mainframe system was expensive. It cost \$2.5 million per year to maintain and required a team of 50 employees who were responsible for enhancing the applications.

At the end of last year, PRC reware from PeopleSoft, Inc. By making puter maintenance cost to \$250,000 he expects the company to recoup its \$10 million investment in less than Settling cracks, page 90

Object-oriented approach

and Microsoft alliance

are keys to launching

Gupta tool advocate

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specialist focusing more

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Client/server sampler

The following are leading client/server applications, identified with the assistance of several industry analysts. Summary comments are from Jeff Comport, a research director at Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn.

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Will it be able to simplify technology and implement-ation for more modest-size organizations?

Oracle Financials Oracle Corp. Redwood Shores, Calif. (800) ORACLE-1

Integrated vendor seeks to control your database tools and application strategy. Challenge is to create better business domain knowledge

Financial Stream **Dun & Bradstreet** Software Atlanta (800) 234-3867

Turned the corner in relaunching with Stream products as flagship line. Still much inertia to overcome.

PeopleSoft Financials PeopleSoft, Inc. Pleasanton, Calif. (800) 947-7753

Will expansion into distribution and manufacturing markets cause People-Soft to take its eye off the ball in fleshing out functions in its financial

Challenge is to reconcile

inconsistency between its financial suites and tools.

Renaissance CS Series Ross Systems, Inc. Redwood City, Calif. (415) 593-2500

Hyperion Financials 1.0 Hyperion Software Corp. Stamford, Conn. (203) 321-3500

Dominates analytical accounting market.
Brand new entrant to transition accounting. Lawson Accounting System Lawson Software, Inc.

Minneapolis (800) 477-1357

Open Accounting System Coda, Inc. Manchester, N.H. (603) 647-9600

SQL Enterprise and Platinum for Windows

Platinum Software Corp. Irvine, Calif. (800) 999-1809

Dynamics C/S+ **Great Plains** Software, Inc. Fargo, N.D. (800) 456-0025

Openseries Financials The Dodge Group, Inc. Waltham, Mass. (617) 487-0025

KaPre Financial Manager and KaPre Business Process Integrator KaPre Software, Inc. Boulder, Colo.

(303) 938-8805

Most successful of AS/400 vendors in relaunching into open sys-tems market. Functional-ity is aimed more at mid-size organizations.

Very high-function integration and strong cross-platform support.

Back after disastrous year. Relaunching on coattails of Microsoft's Windows 95 and Windows NT.

LAN specialist eyeing more mid-market organizations via

Finally has product on the market. Specializes in process engineering. Still must flesh out financial suite.

Object-oriented fanatic. Still must get product out the door.

Flexifinancials Flexiinternational Software, Inc.

Shelton, Conn. (203) 925-3040

SQL Financials 3.02 SQL Financials International, Inc.

Atlanta (404) 390-3900

ACCPAC/2000 System Computer Associates International, Inc. (800) 225-5224

Infinium Financial One of the best user interfaces, still stuck on the AS/400 pending de-livery of a Unix product.

Management Software 2000, Inc. Barnstable, Mass. (800) 725-7668

(800) 828-7660

Solid workflow **Computron Financial** Software Computron Software, Inc. East Rutherford, N.J.

placed the mainframe system with financial and human resources softthe switch, PRC cut its annual comand its support staff to 25. Goon says four years. The extra 25 program-

integration, refocused

Settling cracks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 89

mers were assigned to other projects. Amoco Canada Corp. in Calgary, Alberta, moved from an internally developed financial system to mainframe-based D&B Software's financials in 1991. The oil company took steps to reduce its mainframe costs two years later, about the time D&B Software unveiled its SmartStream suite of client/server applications. So

Amoco Canada signed up as a beta-test

The company expects to save \$2 million to \$3 million per year by off-loading reporting functions from the mainframe, says Zuhair Shlar, manager of financial and administrative systems. A second, softer benefit is easier user access to data: SmartStream includes point-and-click features so that users can more readily examine financial

The flexibility found in a client/server financial system attracted International Shipholding Corp. in New Orleans. Historically, the company's 100 users relied on timeshared access to

into workflow

an IBM 3090 mainframe. Sheila Dean, director of internal auditing at the shipbuilder, says the mainframe didn't work easily with LANs, made it difficult for users to share information and carried high maintenance costs.

So International Shipholding moved to an HP Series 9000 system and replaced its customer financial system with Lawson Software, Inc.'s Lawson Software. Dean says the system includes prepackaged reports so end users don't have to spend time designing

Technical limitations

Besides the commitment to significant training, companies found technical limitations with client/server systems. Dean's only complaint was that the Lawson system didn't offer more client/server capabilities. She says the package supports only rudimentary Windows features and that most of the processing is done on the server

Many applications currently marketed under client/server labels still

rely on character-based mainframe or midrange systems.

Those vendors have added client/ server capabilities, but the progress has been minimal. With many of the systems, the server does the bulk of the processing, and the client merely presents information to a user.

PRC selected PeopleSoft financials because they were designed from the ground up as a client/server system. Because PeopleSoft did not have to migrate its features from a characterbased system, we thought the company offered better GUI capabilities than other products," Goon says.

Users report improvements in other systems. Shlar says SmartStream's client/server capabilities have improved with each release. The package is now powerful enough to support more complex processing, he says.

As vendors deliver more improvements to their products, the decision to move to client/server will become even more of a no-brainer.

Korzeniowski is a freelance writer in Malden,

Driving force

Financial accounting packages will be among the most popular application segments as the client/server market runs at a 36.7% compound annual growth rate

Leading client/server application segment





By Scott McCready and Judy Hodges

Financial tools slide

orkflow is hot, particularly in the financial software community. But before you rush out to buy new applications or workflow-enable your current ones, it might help to know just exactly what workflow is and the business benefits it delivers

Workflow can be as simple as a software capability that allows you to route a document from one person to another or as sophisticated as a process-oriented means of getting more data and work through the system. It's this notion of more efficiently managing work processes that has captured the imagination of prospective customers and financial software vendors

Workflow features and functions, and the fundamental architectural approach taken, tend to vary greatly across products. Consequently, when it comes to workflow, the watchwords are "buyer beware." The following are some key points to consider when assessing your workflow needs:

- $\bullet \, Simple \, work flow \, products \, that \, allow \, you \, to \, easily \, route$ work from one person to another generally don't lead to any great revolution in productivity. These tools deliver a suitable way for companies that are risk-averse to rise incrementally on the workflow learning curve.
- Accounts payable is one of the simplest workflow applications to undertake, and the productivity benefits it yields are easily demonstrable, ranging from 25% to 35% per person. At that rate, a multimillion-dollar system can pay for itself in less than 18 months.
- · Most companies benefit significantly from having workflow independent of, rather than embedded within, their financial applications. A separate workflow system permits the business process to dynamically respond to

the needs of the marketplace without requiring IS staff to rewrite the application.

- Because workflow delivers a competitive advantage, your peers may not be advertising their investments in this leading-edge technology. If you don't use workflow but compete with The Boeing Co., General Electric Co., Exxon Corp., Pizza Hut, Inc., The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. or Kraft General Foods, Inc., your organization is already at a competitive disadvantage.
- Workflow offers not only a shot in the arm from a competitive perspective but a continuous method in which to constantly improve and evaluate your financial opera tions. You can select a workflow-enabled financial application from a wide variety of vendors, including SAP America, Inc. and D&B Software. Or you can choose a vendor package that adds workflow to your current financial software such as those marketed by companies including FileNet Corp., Recognition International, Inc., ViewStar Corp., Wang Laboratories, Inc. and Computron Software, Inc

There is no shortage of choice when it comes to workflow. However, bear in mind that the highest and best use of workflow is in support of a well-designed work pro-

McCready and Hodges are analysis at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass

Tech notes

vear ago, a Computerworld staff member who had dealt with a horde of client/server software companies observed that "about 300" was the standard answer vendors gave when asked how many user sites they had. In reality, there typically were only a couple dozen sites.

Today, firms selling client/server financial applications respond to that question by saying "about 30" or "about 100." Maybe they don't exaggerate as much as their predecessors in the client/server tools, human resources and manufacturing markets. Instead, those offering financial packages are more likely to boast, "We don't have the most sites, but we do have the best technology," (Substitute "complex installations" or "biggest sites" for "best technology" if you wish.)

Take a close look at the "about 30" and "about 100" figures, and you'll likely find that at least half of those user companies have implemented only a couple of modules of the financial package. They still run host/terminal versions of the vendor's software, or they have installed the client/server software at a fraction of their locations.

These vendors aren't lying. Like other Pollyannas, they are optimistic. Anyway, nobody can really prove them wrong because this technology really is new. It will be a while before the vendors shake out.

If IS managers want to move into the world of client/server financial software, they have to travel through Missouri first. Take a "Show Me State" attitude not only by testing the client/server application with your own data and business rules, but by conducting your own interviews with customers in environments comparable to your own.

The lead story in this Guide provides evidence that there are benefits to be had in a move to client/server financials - one of the more crucial application sectors in any corporation. However, the accompanying Buy-

ers' Satisfaction Scorecard (see page



93) shows that even in a single vendor's user base, product performance varies greatly. So step onto this leading edge with care.

Computerworld's Guide team welcomes user comments on upcoming CW Guide topics, including large-scale servers and network operating systems. Are products in those areas meeting your expectations? What are your greatest headaches or benefits from those technologies? Send E-mail to james_connolly@cw.com.

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Users find benefits but yearn for value

t's early in the game for user sites running client/ server financial applications. The installation bases may be small compared with mainstream products such as servers and network operating systems, and many users still aren't in full production.

However, first reports from the field show that the client/server financial suites offered by four of the major business applications vendors are generally performing well and providing users with benefits.

Computerworld and First Market Research in Austin, Texas, contacted 33 users of Oracle Corp.'s Financials



By Kevin Burden and 30 users of Dun & Bradstreet Software's Smart-Stream Financials and located 18 users running PeopleSoft, Inc.'s Financials and SAP America, Inc.'s R/3.

More than half (57%) of all users interviewed said the overall performance of their chosen package was better than average, and only seven users said performance was poor. In addition, more than 80% of the respondents said their goals of improving information flow and management decision-making were achieved as a direct result of their chosen application.

 $Burden \ is \ {\it Computerworld}'s \ senior \ researcher, \ Firing \ Line/Score \ card.$

Rounding out the field

Five of the 10 SAP R/3 users who were contacted said performance was good; the other half gave an average rating.

Of the eight PeopleSoft users interviewed, only two gave performance a good rating; the remaining six gave it an average rating.

According to users, PeopleSoft's strengths are in its security, where six respondents gave a rating of good. Also, reliability and value both received good grades from half the respondents.

SAP R/3's strengths also lie in reliability and compatibility with the network. Half of its users said reliability was good or very good, and six of the 10 users said compatibility was good.

Overall performance	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	
Oracle's Financials	0	2	4	21	6	
D&B Software's SmartStream	2	2	14	11	1	

Reliability

Given the consequences of a failing financial system, it's no surprise users rated reliability as most important.

The number of Oracle users who said reliability was good or very good was more than double the number of D&B Software users offering those same ratings — a trend that carries through this Scorecard. However, many of the D&B Software users who rated Smart-Stream as average noted that they didn't experience problems.

How could D&B Software better its reliability? Several users said security could be improved. "Better security would be the difference between good reliability and completely worry-free reliability." one D&B Software user says.

Compatibility

Network and operating system compatibility is at the forefront of users' concerns. Users of both D&B Software and Oracle applications said the products worked well with Unix and Microsoft Windows NT operating systems. But setting them up for the network was difficult. "It works like a gem under Unix," one Oracle user running the HP-UX flavor says. But when asked about network compatibility, the user added, "Setting it up for Net-Ware was confusing - we needed a lot of help.

Similar comments by users of both packages indicate network problems were often caused by lack of experience with the architecture.

Although the number of Oracle users giving favorable scores was more than double the D&B Software users in both these categories, D&B Software didn't receive negative marks on compatibility

Value for the dollar

Users have yet to recover their investment in the Oracle and D&B Software products. Users said the importance of value returned for the dollar is very high. Unfortunately, interviewers spoke with few users of either package that could give value a favorable rating. Many criticisms focused on the large overall investment and the long wait before any return is seen.

Other comments centered on both applications' inadequacies in moving older data to the new system. "Manually transferring data over has made this a very expensive project," one D&B Software user says.

> EDITOR'S NOTE: The Oracle users were interviewed prior to the company's recent integration between its tools and applications.

Security

Users frequently cited security as an area in which vendors should direct much of their future attention. While this criticism was made by users of both packages, D&B Software users said it a little louder.

Oracle users were less critical. More than two-thirds of the respondents gave its security favorable ratings. Comments included "extremely secure and very manageable" and "[user] access rights are easy to oversee."

Users of both the D&B Software and Oracle packages complained about problems with front-end editing tools. "Incorrect data can be entered if not careful," one Oracle user says.

"We've never had problems with data integrity or unauthorized access," says one D&B Software user, noting, "it's the editing and accuracy controls that need the work."

Support

U sers of almost any product will say vendor support can always be better. These users are no different, but they kept their complaints to a minimum.

Users characterized Oracle support with comments such as "very knowledgeable and experienced support team" and "they answer our questions immediately if we tell them the severity of our problem."

Comments from D&B Software users included "they respond and follow up very quickly" and "they are extremely fast problem solvers."

However, on-site support is where both vendors stand to improve, users say. Few users awarded favorable grades for this support level, but those that did said on-site support was most helpful during implementation. After that, "it becomes too expensive to keep up."

	Good	Very good		Good	Very good	Good	Very good	Good	Very good		Good	Very good
Oracle 12	12	15	With network environment	6	9 0		5	12	9	Telephone	10	6
	12	13	With operating system	12	10	3				On-site	3	4
D&B Software	7	6	With network environment	5	5 1				Telephone	7	3	
			With operating system	perating 6	4	7	0	6	3	On-site	1	2

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In Depth

Will Win 95 kill OS/2?



VESI

BY I BRISCOE STEPHENS

R.I.P., OS/2. Your window of opportunity has closed.

If you're an OS/2 supporter, don't kid yourself. It's over. Windows 95 will nuke the OS/2 operating system in the business community.

Any pragmatic, knowledgeable, self-respecting business defining its future computing requirements today will probably choose Windows 95. Businesses know where Microsoft is headed because it has a strategic plan. These companies will not choose a product such as OS/2, which was developed by a company with a history of crisis management and no strategic plan.

When Version 1.0 of OS/2 debuted in the late '80s, the user community, along with IBM, hoped it would be a standard operating system that would replace Unix for PCs. It was unfortunate, of course, that this early version of OS/2 lacked drivers and application software. But surely IBM would correct these limitations.

As luck would have it, it was about this time that IBM and Microsoft parted company. In an effort to beat Microsoft's Windows NT to market, IBM launched Version 2.0 of OS/2 rather hurriedly—again, with bare-bones drivers and application software and without Yest, page 98

Sound OFF!

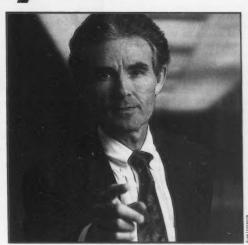
AT ISSUE:

IBM says it is committed to OS/2 for the long term and has taken action to prove it.

But many in the industry remain skeptical of OS/2's

ability to be successful in the market against

Windows 95.



NO

BY MIKE ANZIS

The reports of OS/2's death at the hands of Win 95 have been greatly exaggerated.

Microsoft can spend its bajillions on promotion, and it will doubtless sell millions of copies of Win 95. But there are more than 6 million OS/2 installations out there, including nearly every automated teller machine, airline ticketing system, police car computer and all 904 Mazda dealers in this country.

That doesn't sound like a product that's on its way out, especially considering the widely publicized problems in Win 95's beta testing. It is said to have compatibility problems, for instance, with products such as Borland's C++ or dBase and Lotus' CC:Mail.

Not to mention that Win 95 is purported to deliver 32-bit pre-emptive multitasking when, in fact, it does not pre-empt old 16-bit Windows and DOS applications. These can still hang or crash your entire system and cause lost data and network connections.

Mazda has a number of 16-bit applications that run in their own memory space under OS/2, so if they crash or hang, they do not affect other applications.

While other organizations may have been waiting anxiously for No!, page 98

Stephens is advanced scientific systems coordinator for the Space Science Laboratory at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. In the late 1980s, he championed the use of OS/2 in scientific computing.

Anzis is vice president of IS at Irvine, Calif.-based Mazda Motor of America, the marketing, distribution and dealer franchising arm of Mazda Corp. in the U.S.

YES!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

interoperability. Windows NT, on the other hand, featured a graphical user interface and drivers and software for most popular Windows applications.

In the spring of 1993 in Boca Raton, Fla., a group of high-end users — myself included — communicated these various crises to IBM. At the very least, we wanted interoperability with the bigger IBM RS/6000 systems.

IBM's response was "not to worry." The company assured me it was working on these problems and that OS/2 Warp would answer many of my complaints. Well, Warp does have a Windows 3.1 emulator that lets me use Windows 3.1 applications, but I am still waiting for AIX interoperability.

It was around this time, in 1994, that I started looking for IBM's long-term strategic plan for OS/2. How does IBM plan to address Win 32 applications, for instance, and will OS/2 ever run on IBM's PowerPC? To date, IBM has given me no definitive response.

Game plan?

This summer I began to wonder — was IBM's takeover of Lotus part of its crisis management response to OS/2's application problems? Was IBM afraid Lotus was going to stop supporting OS/2 applications? At the beginning of this month, at his annual session with industry analysts, IBM Chairman Louis Gerstner did not seem to know what the future of OS/2 desktop computing would hold.

Windows is a different story. In July 1992, at the launch of Windows NT in San Francisco, Microsoft laid out the long-term strategic plan it had been working on since the late '80s for Cairo — its dream operating system.

In that initial strategic plan, Microsoft showed Windows 95 as a migration path in its plans to reach Cairo. The company promised drivers, application software and interoperability. And that is just what we've been getting.

In fairness, OS/2 Warp offers speed, robustness and functionality similar to Windows 95. If only we (and most of the rest of the business world) didn't need a variety of applications to choose from and a system that can work with other platforms. If only IBM had some idea where it was going with OS/2 other than down the tubes.

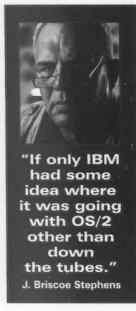
But let's face facts. OS/2 is a standalone operating system. Call it a family of one. An application written for OS/2 will not run on IBM's bigger AIX operating system. This means a business has no way to use its OS/2 hardware and software if it needs to upgrade to more powerful systems.

Add scalability to the other missing components of OS/2—interoperability and a strategic growth plan — and what do you get? A dying, dying, dead operating system that its chairman

does not support.

Windows 95 on the other hand, as an integral part of the Windows family, is a planned low-end migration to Cairo. Windows 95 uses basically the same application programming interfaces as Windows NT. Therefore, applications such as Office 4.3 for Windows 3.1 or Office 95 for Windows 95 run equally well on Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51 without modification — that's what I'm now doing.

Some high-end users with legacy hardware actually prefer using Windows 95 over NT because they can use their old hardware drivers. Other users



may need the security of Windows NT because of the sensitive data some lowend users deal with. No problem with a Windows environment — you can mix and match. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that mixing and matching optimizes your ability to extend the life of legacy hardware and still use state-of-the-art hardware to address future needs and requirements.

Mix and match with OS/2? Hah! Strategic plan? I challenge you to find one.

From the trade literature, it is obvious that the majority of third-party software developers see Windows as the future. Hence, popular commercial software applications will be developed as Windows 32 applications. The only major software developer to side with OS/2 has been Lotus, and just when it seemed to be questioning the sense of that, Lotus was taken captive.

For most users, Windows 95 is more gain with less pain than OS/2. Windows 95 means more productivity in the office and more fun at home.

IBM has had five years to establish OS/2 as the operating system of choice. Well, the prognosis is in.

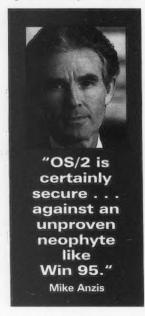
OS/2, you're dead.

NO!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

the late August release of Win 95, we at Mazda have been enjoying the strategic advantage of using OS/2 for more than two years.

OS/2 runs on all 1,800 PCs in Mazda's U.S. dealerships. In addition to supporting all critical elements of the dealers' business with the company, including vehicle orders, parts orders, war-



ranty claims and repair information, OS/2 supports a sophisticated imagebased electronic parts catalog.

And in June, we rolled out OS/2 Warp on our field sales force's 190 laptops.

One test for Win 95 will be whether real 32-bit applications are developed for it over the next year or so. Another will be whether it provides true plugand-play multimedia capability—which is a thrust for Mazda in the future. Those are features OS/2 and OS/2 Warp already have.

Server success

A major point for corporate users to consider is that OS/2, bundled with LAN Server 4.0, has been particularly successful as a server platform — with more than 600,000 server installations. IBM Chairman Louis Gerstner acknowledged earlier this month that OS/2's focus was on corporate users and enterprise systems. He also noted at the same time that the desktop market for OS/2 continues to grow.

Clearly, Win 95 is geared for the desktop and, perhaps, even for the kitchen tabletop. HPFS, the OS/2 file system, can support functions such as transac-

tion processing or a corporate database. We won't know until it's out whether the Win 95 file system will support anything more than balancing your home eheckbook.

If you're going to compare systems at an enterprise server or networking level, then Windows NT is more comparable to OS/2 than Win 95 is. If Windows NT isn't killing OS/2 today, then Win 95 has no chance.

It is estimated that there are more than 300,000 server installations for NT today. And recently, Microsoft announced that the delivery date for Cairo, its object-oriented upgrade to NT, has slipped from 1996 to 1997.

So how these two will stack up against each other remains to be seen.

Cost prohibitive

A significant advantage for Mazda in using OS/2 has been its easy fit with our IBM SNA environment. Let's face it, much of the corporate computing world is dominated by IBM mainframecentric architectures such as ours. Managers have to look at the relative costs of converting to Win 95. The training costs alone of converting users from OS/2 to Win 95 are estimated at several hundred dollars per user.

I want to be able to seamlessly back up my entire OS/2 LAN server DASD farm to the mainframe or install a single security system (such as IBM's RACF) across my entire architecture that allows "single log-on" control. In such a case, noncompatible options such as Windows or Windows 95 seem very unattractive.

Some suggest that IBM itself will kill OS/2. Everything IBM has said and done indicates otherwise. The company has come out with developer application programming interfaces to ease the porting of Windows applications to OS/2. It is courting top Windows developers to help them bring their applications to OS/2.

Some industry pundits suggest that IBM's acquisition of Lotus bodes ill for OS/2. However, there is at least one thing Bill Gates and Gerstner have agreed on in public statements: Notes is an application, not an operating system. Don't forget that Lotus has been the largest developer for OS/2, and IBM is not about to disrupt that. Don't forget, too, that IBM claims there are more Notes installations on OS/2 than on any other platform.

The fact of the matter is, OS/2 ain't broke, and there are lots of corporations such as Mazda that continue to rely on it. According to a recent survey from consulting firm Meta Group, Inc., OS/2 now has a 35% penetration rate in the banking industry and 28% penetration in the insurance industry.

Of course Win 95 will not kill OS/2. OS/2 addresses so much more, particularly as a server platform, than Win 95 was ever designed to address.

Yes, Win 95 may take over the den and the kitchen tabletop, but OS/2 is secure in our corporate environment and others against an unproven neophyte such as Win 95.

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7:30 a.m 8:00 a.m.	Conference Registration
8:15 a.m 9:10 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions:
	How to Start Using It Personally
	The Community of People You Join
	es deciming Conserve this cancil
	thanding you'll receive thin 220 page
9:15 а.т 12:10 р.т.	Flow To Pick The Right People ◀
12:15 p.m 2:00 p.m.	The Top 10 Trends Affecting Information Systems Careers
2:10 p.m 3:05 p.m.	Repeat of Concurrent Sessions
3:20 p.m 5:00 p.m.	Town Hall Forum
5:00 p.m.	

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE*

Before September 1, 1995 payment due by 9/15/95	\$225	
September 1 - September 30, 1995 payment due by 10/1/95	\$255	
October 1 - October 30, 1995 payment due by 10/30/95	\$295	

 Registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and the complete Conference Resource Guide.



CONFERENCE

October 30, 1995

Boston Marriott Newton, Newton, MA

For more information, call the conference hotline:

1-800-488-9204



tive interviews.

How To Pick The Right People 9:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Dr. William Swan Learn the latest in how to pick the right people from Dr. William Swan, a nationally recognized

expert in interviewing and performance appraisal. Dr. Swan conducts interview selection seminars and workshops for major corporations and government agencies and has personally trained over 25,000 managers to conduct more effec-



THE TOP 10 TRENDS AFFECTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS CAREERS 12:15-2:00 p.m.

Luncheon/Keynote Address
Paul Gillin, Executive Editor, Computerworld
Sure, there are new skills entering the market every day, but what are the top 10

trends you should really keep an eye on?
Paul Gillin, one of the country's leading watchers of the
Information Systems profession will give you an up-tothe-minute view in this very special keynote address.



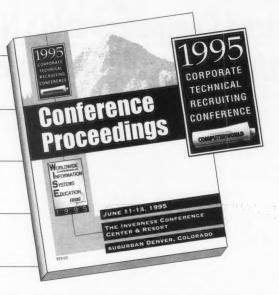
Town Hall Forum 3:20 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. moderated by Jack Erdlen, Strategic Outsourcing In this session, you'll not only be able to propose your specific

questions for open discussion, you'll learn of real world issues and solutions from your peers. You won't want to miss this rare opportunity as Jack Erdlen, an expert in the HR field, leads us through this modern discussion of your recruiting topics.





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If you recruit Information Systems talent and want to get expert advice, you'll want to order the complete proceedings from Computerworld's 1995 Corporate Technical Recruiting Conference, held June 11-14 in suburban Denver. For just \$59 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling, you'll receive this 220-page book that's packed with over 40 presented papers on subjects including candidate selection, sourcing techniques, diversity, college relations, immigration, and much more. And all papers are written by experts, so you're sure to learn from top presenters in the field.

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"From some 600 responses generated by a recent Computerworld recruitment advertisement, we've already hired about 50 professionals who were direct replies -- and we're still hiring from that Jason K. Whitehair advertisement." Recruiting Manager/Systems Engineering

Having just celebrated its 25th anniversary and exceeding \$10.6 billion in revenue, MCI is not only the nation's second largest long-distance provider, but also the world's fifth largest carrier of international traffic. Because the Systems Engineering Division plays a strategic role in shaping MCI's technological future, Recruiting Manager Jason Whitehair relies heavily on *Computerworld* to help recruit leading-edge professionals.

"Dedicated to delivering premier customer service and the highest quality products, Systems Engineering provides systems and software development and support to all of MCI's domestic and international voice and data businesses. Everything from message processing and commercial billing ... to network management and control ... to MCI Mail ... and more. Take our Friends & Family program, for example. Our software applications are what keep track of millions of 'calling circles' and generate customized

"Not limited to any one platform, we utilize the platform best suited to deliver each customer service. So I'm always looking to recruit systems engineers with at least five to seven years of experience in a wide range of technical environments. Because Computerworld is one of the best trade publications for staying on technology's leading edge, its readers are the professionals we're generally looking to recruit. When it comes to recruitment advertising, Computerworld delivers a much higher ratio of qualified candidates than daily newspapers or nontechnical publications.

"The vast majority of resumes generated by our Computerworld recruitment advertisements are from very high calibre candidates. We're typically able to use 350 out of every 400 resumes we receive -- and that's a hit rate of nearly 90%. In fact, from some 600 responses generated by a recent Computerworld recruitment advertisement, we've already hired about 50 professionals who were direct replies -- and we're still hiring from that advertisement. For a single advertising investment, we've more than gotten our money's worth.

MCI Telecommunications Corporation

"After Systems Engineering moved from Washington, D.C. to Colorado Springs back in 1991, our Computerworld recruitment advertising has been instrumental in helping us hire more engineers than usual -- and hire them fast. And, since I'm still seeing activity as a result of a recruitment advertisement we ran five months ago, I know we get sustainable impact with Computerworld.

"As MCI continues to expand into the long distance market including data transmission, 800 service, international calling, and Personal Communications Services (PCS), we'll continue to rely on Computerworld recruitment advertising to attract the hard-to-find, highly qualified technical people our global business demands.

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Computer Careers

Surf's Up for IS Contracting

By Leslie Goff

emand for information systems contractors is swelling, driven by the ever-cresting wave of client/server application migration and development. The opportunities are gnarly, you might say.

"It's their market," says Joan Berenato, director of recruiting at Devon Consulting in Wayne, Pa., a regional consulting firm. "We can't find enough people for positions, and that's nationwide."

At this point, just about everyone is benefiting from the glut of work. For example, at The Registry, an 8-year-old consulting firm in Newton, Mass., sales for its fiscal 1995, which just ended, were \$95 million — an increase of 58% over last year. "Picking out the hottest specialty, or even region, is really hard because demand is up across the board," says Michael Foley, regional recruiting manager for the Northeast.

So how can you cash in as an independent or subcontractor? Experts tell us what's in demand and where.

Hot positions

- Visual Basic, PowerBuilder, C++ programmers
- Unix systems administrators
- LAN, WAN administrators
- Oracle, Sybase database administrators and application developers
- Mainframe maintenance programmers, application developers
- Notes application developers
- Internet specialists/Web masters
- Systems integrators

Sources: Devon Consulting, Wayne, Pa.; Computer People, Inc., Los Angeles; Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA), St. Louis; National Association of Computer Consultant Businesses (NACCB), Greensboro, N.C.; Professional and Technical Consultants Association, Mountain View, Calif.; The Registry, Newton, Masso.

Hot regions

"Demand is strongest in the Northeast and Southeast. In those two areas in particular, we're seeing a convergence of demand for legacy skills and, not as surprising, skills in newer technologies. In other regions, the demand seems to be for one or the other."

> —Tony Vickers, president and chief executive officer, Computer People; 10 U.S. offices employ 600 full-time IS professionals

"We opened our first office in the San Francisco Bay area just a few months ago, and it has been one of the fastest-growing offices in our company's history."

- Michael Foley, regional recruiting man-

ager, Northeast, The Registry; 22 offices employ 1,200 contractors

"We're seeing more and more demand for HP-UX systems administrators, at least in this particular area. Also, the Sun Solaris Unix operating system market is heating up."

— Joan Berenato, director of recruiting, Devon Consulting; has 200 contractors

Hot industries

The consensus is that telecommunications and financial services/banking are the busiest sectors to target. Certain regions are noted for their concentration of companies in a single industry. The South New Jersey/Pennsylvania region, for example, has a high concentration of pharmaceutical firms; the San Francisco area has software developers and hardware manufacturers; Southern California has defense and aerospace; the East has telecommunications, financial services and publishing.

Sources: Devon Consulting, Computer People, ICCA, NACCB, The Registry

Where the wave will peak next

"The hottest area for contractors in the next few years will be security because of the Internet. Security in departmental systems is pretty lax, but when we start making financial transactions a reality on the 'net, the market for security specialists will go crazy."

— Ray Rauth, consultant, chairman of the board. ICCA

"We're expecting Windows 95 to generate strong demand from clients who need help evaluating the merits of migrating and to assist with the actual migration. We're planning to hire new people for a new service we're designing around that need."

- Tony Vickers, Computer People

Advice from those who have been there

"Have your first client already lined up when you hang out your shingle."

- Ray Rauth, ICCA

"If you're just starting out, ask recruiters in your area who their major clients are and try to get a historical sense of what clients have been looking for. What have they done in the past, where are they now, and what's coming? Good recruiters will track this so they can accumulate the experience they need on board in a proactive, timely way."

- Joan Berenato, Devon Consulting

Resources

Independent Computer Consultants Association

St. Louis, Mo. (314) 892-1675 Provides job listings via CompuServe. Type: Go Consult.

National Association of Computer Consultant Businesses Greensboro, N.C.

Professional and Technical Consultants Association

(800) 313-1920

Mountain View, Calif. Kent Safford, membership director (415) 903-8305

A nonprofit group that provides job referrals and other member services for software engineers and other technical consultants (http://www.patca.org/patca).

Goff is a freelance writer in New York.

IS consultants

Average hourly rates

Base: 462 respondents	
Less than \$40	- 6%
\$40 - \$54	25%
\$55 - \$64	18%
\$65 - \$79	- 28%
\$80 - \$99	- 11%
\$100 - \$149	10%
\$150+	- 2%

Source: Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA) 1995 Member Survey, St. Louis

Average age

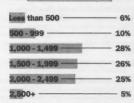
Ba	se: 462 responden	ts
Less than	30 —	3%
30 - 39 -		26%
40 - 49		- 479
50÷		249

Source: ICCA 1995 Member Survey

Average hours billed

IS employees work an average of 2,000 hours each year. Full-time contractors bill the following annually:

Base: 174 respondents



Source: Professional and Technical Consultants Association (PATCA) 1995 Consulting Rates and Business Practices Survey, Mountain View, Calif.

NOTE: Responses were for the prior 12 months Although membership is national, PATCA's members are largely based in Northern California and work primarily in hardware manufacturing and software development industries. The UNISYS OUTSOURCING PRACTICE, headquartered in McLean, Virginia, is continuing to build its core team in client business development, service delivery, technical and program management. We seek individuals with commercial, financial and public sector experience in systems transition, systems management and maintenance, and tailored solutions to complex information management challenges.

In 1994 we awarded 22 new client engagements in outsourcing, won 3 contract extensions and 6 new disaster recovery contracts. Included in those 1994 awards were clients such as Mitsui, NYNEX and Andersen Windows—and our 1994 revenues grew more than 50% over 1993.

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·Boston, MA·

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·Birmingham, AL·

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Multi Data Center environment. Expenence must include 2200, U6000, PCs and U5000. Technical direction to help desk and support staff also required.

Systems Support Analysts

Experience in 2200/500S, U6000, PC consoles and U5000s. SPO administration.

·Cherry Hill, NJ·

Director, Data Center

Manage service deliverables for commercial clients and maintain high levels of performance and client satisfaction in a growing, dynamic environment. Large data center management and strong technical skills required, including telecommunications. 2200 and UNIX platforms.

Telecommunications Analysts & Systems Analysts Monitor networks, PC/LAN/WAN; TELCON, CMS, DCP, TIP, CIS; 2200 and UNIX installed systems.

A-Series Operations Staff

Large A-Series application and network transitions require technical managers, senior design analysts, programmer analysts, technical writers and computer operators.

·McLean, VA·

Business Analyst, A-Series & 2200

Unisys A-Series and/or 2200 hardware/software experience; proposal support, client briefings, and 3rd-party configurations.

New York/New Jersey

A-Series Operations Staff

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ons, semior design analysis, programmer analysis, and computer operators. Join a company that values quality, service and solutions. UNISYS offers the competitive compensation/benefits, challenging engagements & significant career growth that you would expect from a leader. Qualified candidates should forward resume with salary history, indicating position of interest, to: Unisys Outsourcing Practice, 8008 Westpark Drive-NH4A, Attn: Bill Gunn-Dept. CW0828, McLean, VA 22102. FAX: 703-847-2522. We are an equal oppor-tunity/affirmative action employer committed to work force diversity.

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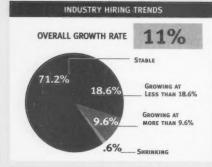
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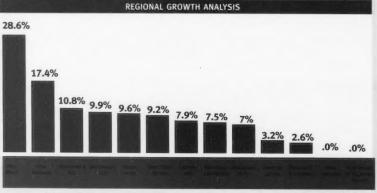
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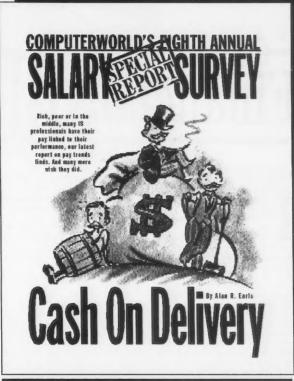
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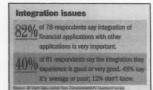
By Herman Mehling

magine that your company has decided to replace the mainframe with client/server technology. Everybody who is anybody in top management agrees the financial application must be the core software in the new world. So far, so good. Now comes the monumental decision of choosing the application that will work best for your organization.

Do you want a stand-alone, best-ofbreed solution or an integrated package with financials as one module or part?

Regardless of whether companies choose a stand-alone or integrated solution, the biggest issues are the extent to which any given package fits their business processes and the cost of buying and customizing software.

"When companies buy instead of build a solution, they must be willing to change at least some of their business processes to fit the software," says Ed Pillard, national director of the client/server consulting practice at Coopers & Lybrand in



Good integration and low implementation costs are important to financial software buyers

review."
All companies wrestle
with these issues to varying degrees. For
some, such as Diamond Shamrock, Inc.,
a San Antonio-based refiner and marketer of petroleum products, the decisionmaking process can be protracted and
densely detailed.

Metuchen, N.J. "They

falsol have to assess the

cost of customizing the

various packages they

Diamond in the rough

Last year, Diamond Shamrock spent months evaluating 25 vendors and subjecting the financial applications of four candidates (Dun & Bradstreet Software, SAP America, Inc., Oracle Corp. and Lawson Software) to more than 300 technical and business criteria. It finally gave the nod to Lawson.

"There wasn't much difference between the four packages in terms of number crunching, but Lawson came out ahead for its architectural design and cost of implementation," says Chuck Oakes, manager of client/server computing and network technology at Diamond Shamrock. The Fortune 200 company, bought Lawson's full suite of enterprise applications — financials, human resources, distribution and materials management.

Oakes says Lawson's solution met Diamond Shamrock's need for an integrated package that would allow the company to re-engineer business processes, blend the financial applications into its refining operations over time and give users more control of their applications. "At no stage did we consider looking for a 'best of breed' for each husiness Oakes says. area." "We didn't want to have to write and support interfaces for those applications."

Diamond Sham-rock also wanted to avoid a complex implementation. "Using Lawson, we were able to stagger the implementation of the financials, something we couldn't do with other vendors' products," Oakes

says. The cost of implementing Lawson software was modest compared with projected costs for other applications.

"Implementation costs can range anywhere from three to 15 times the amount you pay for the software and require bringing in a horde of consultants," Oakes adds.

The promise of a low-cost, extremely fast implementation of financial, cost accounting and asset management client/server software drew *The Seattle Times* to SAP America's R/3.

Last September, the newspaper went live with R/3, just 90 days after it signed on the dotted line. It bought the software through SAP Special Delivery, a bundle program that delivers R/3 software, Hewlett-Packard Co. hardware, Informix

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is your	Flexible	19%
vendor	Average	48%
on price?	Reluctant	19%
Base: 81 respondents	Totally inflexible	7%

Financial processing done on a client/server system: Base: 71 respondents Processing Number of amount respondents

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Time	respondents		
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Software, Inc.'s database, service and support from ICS/Deloitte Touche, Microsoft Corp. tools and Novell, Inc. networking.

"Our goal was to pull a financials package off the shelf, not have to customize it or hire others to do it, and be able to integrate the package with our other business systems," says Laurie Stanton, an information systems analyst at the newspaper. "SAP offered us a complete package that was very attractive financially and functionally."

Financials only

10

An entirely different story comes from E. W. Blanch, Inc., a reinsurance firm with offices in 10 cities and headquarters in Minneapolis.

With no immediate need to link its financials to other business systems, the firm chose to run with a financials-only package — SQL Financials from SQL Financials international, Inc. in Atlanta. "We were looking for a true client/server financial app with executable code that was separated from its database because we wanted to use Microsoft SQL Server as a database," says Linda Eshelman, a programmer/analyst.

Pillard advises companies to look beyond immediate needs. "Many companies go into client/server with their blinders on and don't think about how this or that application will fit into their overall systems environment five years down the road," he says.

Mehling is a freelance writer in San Anselmo,

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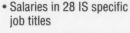
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Advertisers' Index

Digital Equipment Corp. 46-47, 49, 70-71

34-35, 58, 96

55

13

74

18-19

3. 9. 22-23

10, 30-31

G1-G3

15

21

62-63

84

17

65

72

52

41

C4

91

92

48

38-39

45

61

C3

40/41

66-67

78-79

24

122

40

29

42

5

11

33 68

50-51 56, 57 94-95

64

76-77

25-27, 83, 85

AT&T

Btrieve

Cisco

Dell

IBM

Cognos

Compuware

4th Dimension

FTP Software

Hewlett Packard

Hunter Group

Information Builders

Infovision International

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Marketplace Advertisers' Index Page 114-119

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В 🕻
Bank of America 60
Bankers Trust Co 4
Banyan Systems, Inc 20
Baxter Europe81
Baxter Health Care81
Bay Networks, Inc 2
Bell Sygma, Inc 2
Bellcorp 8
BIS Strategic Decisions, Inc 6
Blue Cross and Blue Shield 64
Boole & Babbage, Inc 28
Borland International, Inc
Cover1,75
Buck Consultants, Inc 4

Solutions Atlantis Scientific Autotime Corp...

C	
Cabletron Systems, Inc	
Cover1,2,2	
Cadre Technologies, Inc 7	ć
Camarro Research 5	L
Campbell Soup Co 7	4
Centillion Networks, Inc	
Chevron Information	
Technology Co5	2
Chrysler Financial Corp 7	
Cigna Corp5	
CIMI Corp15,5	
Circulus Strategies 2	
Cisco Systems, Inc 2,4,2	
Citibank NA	
CNN1	
Columbia/	
HCA HaalthcaroCorn Coun	,

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Page number refers to page on which story begins

Link Resources, Inc. Linksys..... Lockheed Martin

Fluke Corp. 77
Ford Motor Co...... Covers

FreeMail. Inc...

Communications Network
Architects, Inc
Compaq
Computer Corp 6,8,32,43,53
CompUSA, Inc12 Computer & Communications
Computer & Communications
Industry Association 32
Computer Associates
International, Inc 8
Computer Integrator16
Computer City12
Computron Software, Inc 90
Connecticut Mutual Life
Insurance Co 43,69
Convex Computer Corp 69
Coopers & Lybrand 114
Cranel Inc
Cray Research Inc 60
Crystal Computer Services, Inc. 57
CS First Boston 53
D
Data General Corp 72,73
Datapro Information
Services, Inc 60
David Clark Co
Davidson Consulting 54
Decisis, Inc 4
Dell Computer Corp 6,8,43
Deloitte & ToucheCovers
Devon Consulting103
Diamond Shamrock, Inc 114
Digital Equipment Corp
Digitool, Inc
Disk/Trend, Inc
Ditec informationstechnologie
GmbH & Co. KG81
Dun & Bradstreet Software 88,93
man y
E
E. W. Blanch, Inc 114
Eastman Kodak Co73
Egghead Discount Software12
Electronic Freedom Frontier
Covers
Encore Consulting Group 6
Europear81
Exxon Corp 90
F
FileNet Corp90
Financial Services Technology
Consortium
Firestone Textiles 53
rirestone rextiles

Lotus Development Corp
Lysis Corp
Mazda
Meta Group, Inc
49,53,54,57,60,69,72,75,77,97 Montgomery Securities
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
National Computer Security Association
Markets, Inc
Corp
Next Computer, Inc
Northwest Airlines
0
Open Software Foundation8,1c Oracle Corp 4,8,53,73,75,93 Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp
P Pacific Bell
Palindrome Corp 28 ParcPlace-Digitalk, Inc 75

	UI	y oegins
April		
April		- 100
Personal Computer Assets		
1.44 Management Institute, Inc. 53 Phillips Petroleum Co. 10 97 Pizza Hut, Inc. 49 Power Computer Corp. 49 Power Computer Corp. 76 PRC Corp. 88 Porcer & Gamble Co. 8 8 Procter & Gamble Co. 69 Radius, Inc. 90 99 Recognition International, Inc. 90 15 Reply Corp. 33 16 R 33 17 Resply Corp. 73 18 Sape Research, Inc. 93 24 Sape Research, Inc. 28 50 SAP America, Inc. 49 32 Scientific and Engineering 73 34 Scientific and Engineering 73 35 AS Institute, Inc. 49 34 Scientific and Engineering 73 35 SAP America, Inc. 76 36 SAP America, Inc. 77 40 SHL Systechnolose, Inc. <td>49</td> <td></td>	49	
Phillips Petroleum Co.		
1977 Pizza Hut, Inc. 90	.14	
72 Portrait Display Labs, Inc. 49 Power Computer Corp. 49 Power Computer Corp. 49 Power Computer Corp. 76 PRC Corp. 88 Procter & Gambie Co. 8 Rely Corp. 88 Procter & Gambie Co. 8 Rely Corp. 49 Procter & Gambie Co. 8 Rely Corp. 49 Recognition International, Inc. 90 Reply Corp. 43 Richardson Electronics, Inc. 73 Sabre Travel Information Proceedings 15 Sape Research, Inc. 28 Sape Machine Covert Scheduler Saper Sape	****	
Power Computer Corp.	.97	Pizza Hut, Inc90
Power Computer Corp.	72	Portrait Display Labs, Inc 49
PRC Corp.	-	Power Computer Corp 49
PRC Corp.		Powersoft Corp 76
Forcter & Gamble Co. 8	07	PRC Corp 88
Radius, Inc. 499 Recognition International, Inc. 90 Reply Corp. 431 432 434	60	Procter & Gamble Co 8
.6 Radius, Inc		
69 Radius, Inc. Addius, Inc. Jog 79 Recognition International, Inc. 90 15 Reply Corp. 33 34 Richardson Electronics, Inc. 73 76 Sabre Travel Information 16,73 8 Sage Research, Inc. 28 8 SAP AG. 73 5AP America, Inc. 93 3AS Institute, Inc. 49 3Cotentific and Engineering 57 50ftware, Inc. 77 73 Segue Software, Inc. 77 74 Software Affectionology, Inc. 77 75 Software Monterprise 24 51 Share, Inc. 69 64 SHL Systemhouse, Inc. 73 75 Software Affects Covert 50ftware Affects Covert 50ftware Affects Software Affects 8.8 Spyglass, Inc. 76 50ftware Affects Software Affects 8.1 Stapine 12 51af		R
15		Radius Inc 40
Sape		Recognition International Inc. on
Sichardson Electronics, Inc 73		Renly Corn 43
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$		Richardson Flectronics Inc. 73
Sabre Travel Information		menandon electronico, menan /3
97 Network	10	c
97 Network		3
. 8 Sage Research, Inc. 28 6 SAP AG. 73 5 SAP America, Inc. 93 3 SAS Institute, Inc. 49 32 Scientific and Engineering 8 Software, Inc. 77 73 Segue Software, Inc. 77 73 Segue Software, Inc. 77 74 Sadow Enterprise 24 75 Share, Inc. 77 76 Share, Inc. 77 76 Share, Inc. 77 77 78 Sopus Technology, Inc. 77 78 Share, Inc. 77 79 Software, Inc. 77 79 Software, Inc. 77 70 Software, Inc. 77 70 Software, Inc. 77 71 72 Soft Inc. 77 73 Software Artistry, Inc. 57 74 75 Software Artistry, Inc. 57 75 Software Artistry, Inc. 57 76 Software Artistry, Inc. 57 77 78 Software Artistry, Inc. 57 78 79 Sprint Corp. 57 79 Sprint Corp. 57 79 Stream International, Inc. 20 70 Stream International, Inc. 20 71 72 Survey Strategies, Inc. 72 73 Survey Strategies, Inc. 74 74 75 Survey Strategies, Inc. 75 75 Synantec Corp. 53 75 75 Synantec Corp. 54 75 Synantec Corp. 55 75 Synantec Corp. 55		
		Network16,73
SAP America, Inc		
SAS Institute, Inc.	. 0	
32 Saturn Corp	-	
Scientific and Engineering	-	
Software, Inc		
.8 Scopus Technology, Inc	32	
Segue Software, Inc.		Software, Inc 77
Shadow Enterprise	8	Scopus Technology, Inc 57
Same	73	
44 SHL Systemhouse, Inc		
Nowtime		Share, Inc 69
Siemens	44	
2012 Softmart, Inc. Covert	76	ShowtimeCover1
72 SoftTracks		
72 SoftTracks	121	Softmart, IncCovers
Software AG		
.8 of North America, Inc		
55	8	
Sprint Corp.		Software Artistry, Inc 57
53 Spyglass, Inc		Sprint Corp 8,28
1.6 SQL Financials International,	53	Spyglass, Inc 75
20, Inc. 114, 14, 14, 15, 16, 16, 17, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18	.16	SOL Financials International.
Ataffware Corp. 53 Staples 12 Starfish Software Covert Stone Container Corp. 53 Stream International, Inc. Covert Sum Microsystems, Inc. 285,53,54,72,77 Swiss Bank Corp. 53 Sybase, Inc. 54 Symantec Corp. 53 Symantec Corp. 54 Symotycs Communications, Inc. 2		
Staples	64	Staffware Corn 53
Starfish Software	104	Stanles 12
Stone Container Corp		Starfish Software Covers
.93 Stream International, Inc Covers Summit Strategies, Inc	-	
Summit Strategies, Inc		
Sun Microsystems,	.93	
Inc		
Swiss Bank Corp. 53 5ybase, Inc. 54 Symantec Corp. 75 28 SynOptics Communications, Inc.	/eri	
Sybase, Inc		Inc
Symantec Corp		Swiss Bank Corp 53
Symontec Corp	64	
35 SynOptics Communications, Inc. 2		
5ystem Software		
	. />	System Software

Sociate State Hilliam 177
T
ligent, Inc 4,76
indem Computers, Inc 76
ındy Corp12
eamWare, Inc
erabank Systems, Inc 32
exas Instruments, Inc
ne Boeing Co 90
ne Dow Chemical Co Covers
ne Goodvear
re & RubberCo90
ne Incredible Universe12
ne Santa Cruz Operation 16 ne Seattle Times 114
ne Smaby Group
ne Standish Group
ternational, Inc 69
ne Tower Group 60
ne Yankee Group15
voli Systems Corp 28
ricord Corp 8 / Guide 53
v Guide 53
U
S. Department of Commerce 32
nisys CorpCover1
V
V
alteck, Inc
isa International, Inc 60
isual Edge Software Ltd 4
SR Financial Services 121

W
lang Laboratories, Inc 90
Varner Brothers Interactive
ntertainment 8 Vashington Systems
onsulting, Inc 32
Vellfleet Communications, Inc. 2
VorkGroup Technologies,
nc
λ
Soft, Inc53
7
vcad Corp

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Gainers		Losers	
	Pero	eent	
YSTEM SOFTWARE ASSOC.(H) RICORD SYSTEMS ASTEROPS(H) ACOTEC INC. LAXTOR CORP. ARCPLACE SYSTEMS INC. ENTIGRAM COMMUNICATIONS ROSSCOMM	29.4 25.9 25.0 17.6 12.0 11.7 10.7 10.3	DATA RACE INC. INTELLIGENT ELECTRONICS REXON INC. IPL SYSTEMS INC. EMULEX CORP. RADIUS INC. NOVEL INC. PLATINUM SOFTWARE	-32.6 -25.7 -18.9 -17.4 -17.2 -15.2 -13.7 -13.6
YSTEM SOFT WARE ASSOC.(H) IRRUS LOGIC(H) ANDY CORP.(H) ERIDIAN CORP. IT CORP. ESTRONE FOURDMENT TECH.(H)	7.88 3.00 2.75 2.63 2.50	US ROBOTICS(H) IBM(H) CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR CORP.(H) INTEL CORP. PEOPLESOFT COMPAGE COMPAGE CORP. (H)	-15.75 -8.25 -6.00 -5.50 -5.00

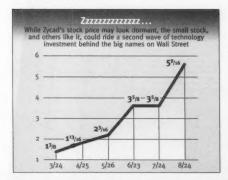
The next big (or small) thing

While investors in the big computer companies have been reaping millions from Wall Street's most recent love affair with technology, they aren't the only game in town.

Smaller, more growth-oriented technology stocks may be the next prize for investors, according to one stock market watcher. Rick Chehab, an analyst at VSR Financial Services in San Jose, Calif., came to that conclusion after he tracked the ratio of the Russell 2000 small stocks index with the Russell 1000 large stock index.

The ratio has been moving up steadily since bottoming out in July, Chehab said, meaning "the movement is in the smaller stocks, or else the big stocks are decreasing." One stock he singled out is Zycad Corp. (ZCAD), a Fremont, $Calif., chip\ maker\ that\ has\ pioneered\ a\ combined\ emulation$ and simulation technology that is important for testing the strength of computer chips.

Another analyst said he sees most PC-related stocks going into a quiet period as users evaluate Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 and make new buying decisions. Mike Murphy, editor of "California Technology Stock Letter" in Half Moon Bay, Calif., said client/server software firms and relational database companies could see a little more growth as a result. And though Zycad is in the chip segment, "they will do all right because they have a new product ramping up" as well as a recent \$3 million contract with the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Products Agency, Murphy said.-Tim Ouellette



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OTC	81.63	30.25	3 COM CORP. (H)	79.25		-1.7	OTC	7.38	1.88	MATHSOFT	6.88	0.31	4.8
NYS	50.38	38.00 47.25	AMERITECH CORP. (H)	49.63	0.63	1.3	OTC	45.25	8.00		45.13	2.13	4.9
NYS	59.00 74.75	10.38	AT&T ASCEND COMMUNICATIONS	54.63	2.38	4.5	OTC	19.88	9.75		18.88	0.19	6.5
OTC	19.75	10.00	BANYAN SYSTEMS INC.	10.75	-0.50	-1.5	OTC	11.38	5.00		10.75	0.75	7.5
OTC	49.38	23.13	BAY NETWORKS INC. (H)	46.38	-2.88	-5.8	OTC	109.25	53.88	MICROSOFT CORP.	95.38	-2.63	-2.7
NYS	59.75	48.38	BELL ATLANTIC CORP.	58.63	0.63	1.1	OTC	22.50	8.50		19.88	0.13	0.6
NYS	69.00	50.50	BELLSOUTH CORP.	67.13	1.00	1.5	OTC	74.75	48.75		51.50	-1.13	-2.1
NYS	39.38	12.63	BOLT, BERANEK & NEWMAN	35.50	0.88	2.5	OTC	44.38	24.75	ORACLE CORP. (H)	42.75	0.00	0.0
OTC	22.25	9.00	BROOKTROUT TECHNOLOGY	20.00	-0.75	-3.6	OTC	59.50	25.50			-1.75	-3.0
NYS	59.63	37.38	CABLETRON SYSTEMS		-2.00	-3.6	OTC	24.25	7.88		10.75	1.13	11.7
OTC	22.25	12.25	CENTIGRAM COMMUNICATIONS	18.13	1.75	10.7	OTC		21.00		66.75		-7.0
OTC	50.50	20.00	CHIPCOM CORP.	40.75	-0.88	-2.1	OTC	12.88	5.00		11.25	0.13	1.1
OTC	67.00	6.13	CISCO SYSTEMS INC. (H) COMPRESSION LABS INC.	64.25	-1.88	-2.8	OTC	16.88	6.38		12.75		-13.6 10.3
OTC	12.75	5.63	COMPUTER NETWORK TECH,	9.00	0.63	8.1	OTC	59.50	29.50	PLATINUM TECHNOLOGY PROGRESS SOFTWARE CORP.	24.00 53.75	2.25	-7.7
OTC	14.50	7.50	CROSSCOMM	12.00	1.13	10.3	OTC	17.50	1.94	QUARTERDECK CORP.	15.38	-0.50	-3.1
OTC	4.50	2.13	DATA SWITCH CORP.	4.31	0.00	0.0	OTC	26.75	10.75	RAINBOW TECHNOLOGIES INC.	23.88	-0.13	-0.5
OTC	55,50	23,63	DSC COMMUNICATIONS	54,63	1.25	2.3	OTC	9.75	2.00	RASTEROPS (H)	8.75	1.75	25.0
OTC	42.00	15.75	FORE SYSTEMS INC.	32.50	-3.13	-8.8	OTC	7.75	3.00	ROSS SYSTEMS (H)	6.75	-0.25	-3.6
NYS	35.88	9.25	GENERAL DATACOMM INDS.	12.25	-0.50	-3.9	OTC	48.00	12.50	SOFTKEY INTERNATIONAL INC.	43.88	-2.63	-5.6
NYS	36.38	29.50	GTE CORP.	36.00	0.25	0.7	OTC	6.25	2.88	SOFTWARE PUBLISHING CORP.	4.13	0.31	8.2
NYS	121.88	77.00	ITT CORP.	120.63	2.50	2.1	OTC	12.50	5.25	STATE OF THE ART	8.75	-0.25	-2.8
OTC	25.88	17.25	MCI COMMMUNICATIONS CORP.	23.25	-0.38	-1.6	NYS	47.50	28.13	STERLING SOFTWARE INC. (H)	46.38	-0.13	-0.3
OTC	15.75	5.50	MICOM COMMUNICATIONS CORP.	7.88	0.13	1.6	OTC	16.75	4.63	STRUCT. DYNAMICS RESEARCH (H)		0.75	4.8
OTC	10.50	6.63	MICROCOM INC. NETRIX CORP.	19.25	-0.75	-3.8	OTC	32.38	11.63	SYBASEINC. SYMANTEC CORP.	32.38	-1.63	-4.8
OTC	12.00	3.25	NETWORK COMPUTING DEVICES	5.25 8.75	-0.69	7.7	OTC	67.25	39.50	SYNOPSYS	61.00	-1.38 -1.25	-4.3
NYS	35.50	12.13	NETWORK EQUIPMENT TECH. (H)	35.50	2.50	7.6	OTC	36.88	10.63	SYSTEM SOFTWARE ASSOC. (H)	34.63	7.88	29.4
OTC	36.13	17.13	NETWORK GENERAL	33.38	1.00	3.1	OTC	18,13	5,50	SYSTEMSOFT CORP.	15.38	-0.88	-5.4
NYS	43.38	27.00	NEWBRIDGE NETWORKS CORP.	29.75	-0.13	-0.4	OTC	8,13	3.25	TRINZIC CORP.	7.75	0.50	6.9
NYS		31.25	NORTHERN TELECOM LTD.	36.38	-0.38	-1.0	OTC	24.00	7.88	VIEWLOGIC SYSTEMS	12.50	0.63	5.3
OTC	23.25	14.13	NOVELL INC.	18.13	-2.88	-13.7	OTC	22.00	10.75	VMARK SOFTWARE INC.	17.50	0.38	2.2
NYS	45.13	35.63	NYNEX CORP.	44.63	0.00	0.0	OTC	10.75	4.63	WALKER INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS	6.94	0.44	6.7
OTC	39.25	17.75	OCTEL COMMUNICATIONS CORP.	36.63	-0.25	-0.7	OTC	55.50	15.00	WALL DATA INC.	18.75	-0.25	-1.3
OTC	33.25 7.13	8.13	OPTICAL DATA SYSTEMS INC. (H)	33.00	2.00	6.5	OTC	19.50	9.13	WANG LABORATORIES INC.	18.00	0.25	1.4
OTC	62.00	14.75	PENRIL DATA COMM NETWORKS (H) PICTURETEL CORP.	54.25	0.13	1.9	700	1000	2000		Sec.		
OTC	8.13	2.75	PROYEON INC.	6.50	0.00	0.0	Se	micondu	tors			OFF 3	1.85%
OTC	7.88	3.00	RACOTEK INC.	6.25	0.94	17.6	NYS	39.25	22.25	ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES	33.25	-2.13	-6.0
OTC	6.75	3.50	RETIX	3.94	-0.06	-1.6	NYS	39,50	19.63	ANALOG DEVICES INC.	35.13		-3.8
NYS	24.88	17.50	SCIENTIFIC ATLANTA INC.	21.75	0.75	3.6	OTC	36.75	13.25	ATMEL CORP. (H)	32.38		-7.8
NYS	50.13	39.25	SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORP.	49.13	0.63	1.3	OTC	15.50	3.88	CHIPS AND TECHNOLOGIES	13.13	-0.75	-5.4
NYS	40.13		SPRINT CORP.	34.50	0.25	0.7	OTC	58.38	10.50	CIRRUS LOGIC (H)	55.75	3.00	5.7
OTC	31.63		STANDARD MICROSYSTEMS CORP.	16.75	-0.88	-5.0	NYS	55.50	15.00	CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR CORP. (H			
OTC	57.50	17.38	STRATACOM INC.	50.75		-6.5	NYS	24.88	13.38	DALLAS SEMICONDUCTOR	23.88		-1.5
OTC	8.13	3.63	TELEBIT CORP.	4.38		2.9	OTC	33.50	11.63	INTEGRATED SILICON SYSTEMS	29.38		2.2
OTC	161.75	30.75	US ROBOTICS (H)	144.75		-9.8	NYS	78.38 53.00	28.75	INTEL CORP.	59.75		
NYS	45.00	29.63	U S WEST INC. XIRCOM	43.00	0.00	0.0	OTC	43.00	15.50	LSI LOGIC CORP. (H) LATTICE SEMICONDUCTOR	32.00	-0.50	
OTC	38.25		XYLOGICS INC.		-1.25	-3.3	NYS	75.38	15,25	MICRON TECHNOLOGY (H)	72.88		2.6
oic	30.23	10.00	ATEOGICS INC.	20.20	11.23	.5.5	NYS	80.13	49.00	MOTOROLA INC.	73.00		
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PC	s and Wo	TRISCATION	The state of the second st		UFF	146%	OTC	57.25	10.50	SIERRA SEMICONDUCTOR	49.38		
OTC	7.63	3.63	ADVANCED LOGIC RESEARCH	7,00	0.50	7.7	NYS	82.13	31.75	TEXAS INSTRUMENTS (H)	75.13		
OTC	50.13	32.50	APPLE COMPUTER INC.	44.75		0.3	OTC	36.25	10.25	VLSI TECHNOLOGY (H)	32.75		
OTC	19.25	10.38	AST RESEARCH INC.	13.63	-0.50	-3.5	OTC	5.25	1.78	WEITEK	4.00		
NYS	54.75	30.75	COMPAQ COMPUTER CORP. (H)	48.25		-8.7	ASE	22.13	13.13	WESTERN DIGITAL CORP. (H)	20.75		
OTC	77.38	30.75	DELL COMPUTER CORP. (H)	73.94		-2.7	OTC	43.50	14.25		40.25		
OTC	30.38	13.56	GATEWAY 2000 INC.	26.38	-1.63	-5.8	OTC	54.13	37.38	ZILOG INC.	45.63	-0.13	-0.3

45.63	23.38	SILICON GRAPHICS	42.38	-1.88								
62.00	24.13	SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC. (H)	58.13	0.63	1.1	OTC	25.88	14.38	AMERICAN POWER CONVERSION		-0.81	-4.7
62.75	39.50	TANDY CORP. (H)	62.75	2.75	4.6						-3.13	-6.8
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40.40	4.00				-						0.13	2.3
13.63	6.88	AMDAHL CORP.	9.13	-0.06							-0.25	-1.8
8.88	3.63	CONVEX COMPUTER	5.00	0.25							-0.38	-3.2
74.38	14.63	CRAY RESEARCH INC.	23.38	0.00								-32.6
12.00	6.75	DATA GENERAL CORP.	10.25	-0.25							-0.19	-2.3
49.50	22.63	DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP.	39.75	-2.75							-1.13	-5.1
5.56	1.06	ENCORE COMPUTER CORP.	1.56	0.13								
18.50	9.25	HARRIS COMPUTER SYSTEMS CORP		0.75							0.13	0.7
114.63	66.63	IBM (H)	104.00	-8.25							-0.44	-2.7
9.63	3.00	MERIDIAN DATA INC. (H)	8.88	0.38							-0.13	-3.6
12.25	4.25	NETFRAME	6.75	0.50							-2.19	-8.0
25.38	14.13	SEQUENT COMPUTER SYS. (H)	23.63	-1.00								-17.4
10.00	3.13	SEQUOIA SYSTEMS INC.	7.25	-0.25	-3.3						-2.25	-3.3
39.88	23.00	STRATUS COMPUTER INC.	25.50	0.75							0.56	12.0
19.75	11.88	TANDEM COMPUTERS INC. (L)	12.25	-0.25	-2.0						0.25	3.8
7.63	3.38	TRICORD SYSTEMS	4.25	0.88	25.9				PINNACLE MICRO INC.		-1.13	-4.9
13.63	8.13	UNISYS CORP.	8.13	-0.38	-4.4						2.00	7.0
											0.13	2.4
ware				110 4	made				QUANTUM CORP. (H)			-7.7
Mare				OF 0	12370					7.00	-1.25	-15.2
66.50	27.25	ADOBE SYSTEMS INC.	60.00	-0.88	-1.4				RECOGNITION INTERNATIONAL	10.00	0.00	0.0
7.50	2.50	AMERICAN SOFTWARE INC. (H)	7.13	0.63	9.6						-0.44	-18.9
33.00	9.75	APPLIX INC.	28.25	-0.75	-2.6		49.38	22.88	SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY (H)	46.88	-2.25	-4.6
53.00	28.38	AUTODESK INC.	45.00	-4.25	-8.6		36.88	17.88	STORAGE TECHNOLOGY	28.00	-1.25	-4.3
2 00	2.00	Description Comments	6.63			NIMC	62.20	25 52	Trumpenor Inc.	40.90	4.70	0.70

9./2	APPLIX INC.	28.25	.0.75	-2.0	OIL	47.20	64.00	SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY (II)	40.00	-6.63	-4.0
28.38	AUTODESK INC.	45.00	-4.25	-8.6		36.88	17.88	STORAGE TECHNOLOGY	28.00	-1.25	-4.3
2.00	BACHMAN INFO. SYSTEMS	6.63	0.38	6.0		52.38	31,13	TEKTRONIX INC.			-5.7
22.00	BGS SYSTEMS INC.	34.00	1.50	4.6	NYS	128.38	90.63	XEROX CORP. (H)	123.50	-2.50	-2.0
20.50	BMC SOFTWARE INC.	43.19	-1.19	-2.7	-						
18.25	BOOLE & BABBAGE	29.50	-0.25	-0.8	Se	rvires				DEE 4	2006
6.00	BORLAND INT'L INC. (H)	14.25	1.00	7.5	E. C. MI	200000	-	construction data in some		1724 - 1	
5.75	BROCK CONTROL SYSTEMS INC.	8.25	0.00	0.0					25.13		3.1
1.78	CESOFTWARE	2.38	0.00	0.0					0.75		-7.7
8.75	CHEYENNE SOFTWARE INC.	21.00	0.63	3.1			14.75	ANALYSTS INT'L (H)	31.00	0.75	2.5
10.50	COGNOS INC.	31.38	-0.50	-1.6			36.75	AUTO DATA PROCESSING	65.50	-1.13	-1.7
37.50	COMPUTER ASSOCIATES	71.25	-2.88	-3.9	OTC	40.50	14.00	CAMBRIDGE TECH. PARTNERS	38.50	-0.38	-1.0
2.50	COMPUTERVISION CORP.	12.63	-0.88	-6.5	NYS	45.13	23.50	CERIDIAN CORP.	45.13	2.63	6.2
21.50	COMPUWARE CORP.	23.69	-0.56	-2.3	NYS	32.50	19.38	COMDISCO INC.	31.13	-0.75	-2.4
9.00	COMSHARE INC.	29.00	-2.50	-7.9	OTC	21.00	6.63	COMPUTER HORIZONS	20.00	-0.13	-0.6
10.13	COREL CORP.	17.63	-0.38	-2.1	NYS	61.50	41.00	COMPUTER SCIENCES	60.50	0.75	1.3
8.50	DATAWARE TECHNOLOGIES INC.	12.94	-0.06	-0.5			7.50		14.38	-0.50	-3.4
20.25	FILENET CORP. (H)	46.25	-0.50	-1.1		38.25	6.88		36.88	0.25	0.7
3,38	4TH DIMENSION	7.00	0.25	3.7	OTC	10.75	5.38	CONTROL DATA SYSTEMS INC.	9.63	0.25	2.7
11.75	FRAME TECHNOLOGY	30,75	-0.88	-2.8	OTC	14.25	6.50	EGGHEAD DISCOUNT SOFTWARE	12.69	-0.06	-0.5
16.00	FTP SOFTWARE INC.	23.25	-1.88	-7.5	NYS	47.50	34.75	GENERAL MOTORS E (EDS)	46.13	0.38	0.8
8.00	GROUP SOFTWARE	13.50	-1.50	-10.0	OTC	15.25	6.88	INACOM CORP.	13.00	-0.75	-5.5
8.25	GUPTA	9.00	0.25	2.9	OTC	18.13	7.50	INTELLIGENT ELECTRONICS	9.56	-3.31	-25.7
4.63	HOGAN SYSTEMS INC.	10.25	-0.75	-6.8	OLC	11.25	3.88	MERISEL	6.13	-0.06	-1.0
28.25	HYPERION SOFTWARE CORP.	48.75	-1.75	-3.5	OTC	15.88	8.50	MICROAGE INC.	12.25	0.38	3.2
11.25	INFORMATION RESOURCES	12.88	-0.88	-6.4	OTC	40.00	21.38	PAYCHEX	39.38	0.75	1.9
10.50	INFORMIX CORP.	28.63	-2.13	-6.9	NYS	53.88	35.00	POLICY MANAGEMENT SYS.	50.88	-0.38	-0.7
7.38	INTERGRAPH CORP.	12.13	0.63	5.4	NYS	33.50	22.25	REYNOLDS AND REYNOLDS	33.00	1.25	3.9
2.88	INTERLEAF INC.	11.00	1.00	10.0	OTC	24.50	16.75	SEI CORP.	21.75	-0.50	-2.2
11.00	INTERSOLVING.	21.25	-0.25	-1.2	OTC	42.75	24.25	SHARED MEDICAL SYSTEMS	38.25	0.13	0.3
19.38	INTUIT INC. (H)	43.50	-1.44	-3.2	OTC	8.13	4.00	SHL Systemhouse	7.25	-0.06	-0.9
21.25	LEGENT CORP.	46.81	0.06	0.1	OTC	26.50	12.00	SOFTWARE SPECTRUM INC.	24.75	0.50	2.1
3.63	MAGIC SOFTWARE ENTERPRISES	10.00	-0.88	-8.0	OTC	31.75	16.75	SUNGARD DATA SYSTEMS	28.00	-0.75	-2.6
	28.38 2.00 20.50 20.50 5.75 8.75 2.50 20.50 37.50 2.50 20.25	28.38 AUTODESS INC. 2.00 BACHMAN INC. SYSTEMS 2.00 BCS SYSTEMS INC. 2.00 BCS SYSTEMS INC	28.38 ANTORESE INC. 45,00 20.08 RACHARM INTO-SYSTEMS 6.83 22.00 B GS-SYSTEMS INC. 34,00 22.00 BGS-SYSTEMS INC. 29,00 23.00 BGS-SYSTEMS INC. 29,00 24.00 BGS-SYSTEMS INC. 32,00 25.00 BGS-SYSTE	28.38 ANYODES INC. 45.00 4.25	28.38 Autodesic Inc. 45.00 - 4.25 - 8.6 C	28.38 Automask Inc. 20.08 Rachman Hro. Systems 22.00 BS. Systems Inc. 22.00 BS. Systems Inc. 22.00 BS. Systems Inc. 23.00 Lib. 36.00 NTS 22.00 BS. Systems Inc. 24.00 Lib. 36.00 NTS 22.00 BS. Systems Inc. 25.00 Lib. 36.00 NTS 25.00 NTS 25.00 Lib. 36.00 NTS 25.00 NTS 2	28.38 Autodesic Inc. 28.00 Bachama Inc. Systems 6.63 0.0 4.25 8.6 NYS 36.88 22.00 BGC Systems Inc. 30.00 1.50 8.6 NYS 92.38 22.00 BGC Systems Inc. 30.00 1.50 8.6 NYS 92.38 22.00 BGC Systems Inc. 30.00 1.50 8.6 NYS 92.38 22.00 BGC Systems Inc. 30.00 1.50 8.6 NYS 92.38 22.00 BGC Systems Inc. 30.00 1.50 8.6 NYS 128.38 22.5 Occurrence Inc. 30.00 1.50 8.6 NYS 128.38 32.5 Occurrence Inc. 30.00 1.6 NYS 128.38 32.5 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.00 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.00 0.6 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.00 0.6 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.00 0.6 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 Occurrence Inc. 31.8 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	28.38 Automassing. 2.00 Bachman Hro. Systems 6.63 0, 81.6 6.0 Ny 5 36.88 17.88 2.20.0 BCS Systems Inc. 2.20.0 BCS Systems Inc. 2.20.0 ESS Systems Inc.	28.38 Automaskinc. 23.08 Automaskinc. 23.08 Bechandin Horo, "Systems" 24.09 Bechandin Horo, "Systems" 25.00 Bechandin Horo, "Systems" 26.01 Sept. Systems Inc. 26.02 Systems Inc. 27.03 Beck Control Systems Inc. 27.04 Systems Inc. 27.05 Beck Control Systems Inc. 27.05 Beck Control Systems Inc. 27.06 Beck Control Systems Inc. 27.07 Beck Control Systems Inc. 27.08 Beck Control Systems Inc. 27.09 Control Systems Inc. 27.09 Control Systems Inc. 27.00 Cont	28.30 Automassin Automass	28.38 Automassin Automass

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 Philippe Kahn, chairman of Starfish Software and founder of Borland International, Inc., both in Scotts Valley, Calif.



Philippe Ka

"I'm totally sick of all the Windows 95 hype. This is beginning to make the O.J. trial look interesting." — Jeffrey Tarter, editor of the "Soft Letter" newsletter

"It is the most over-hyped product in the history of the industry. When people look back, they will see all hoopla created for an operating system. This is like spending \$200 million to promote the design of a new carburetor."

 Michael Mace, director of Macintosh platform marketing at Apple Computer, Inc. "Think of it like the rollout of a new soda from Coke, [Windows 95 is] like New Coke — sort of flat."

 Chris Le Tocq, president of SoftTracks, a market research company in Los Altos, Calif.

"I don't have any comment on this. I'm on vacation."

 Mitch Kapor, founder of the Electronic Freedom Frontier and Lotus Development Corp.

Party is over

CONTINUED FROM COVER 1

Deloitte & Touche has already installed Windows 95 on 1,000 PCs, said Gary Tiesenga, manager of network services at the company's data center in Nashville. By Jan. 1, Tiesenga said, he aims to have another 5,000 to 6,000 machines migrated. He hopes to move the entire firm of 16,500 users over by the end of next year.

"People keep asking us how soon they can have it," Tiesenga said. Deloitte is taking a highly planned, careful approach, complete with training classes that will begin next month. But other than buying new 32-bit utilities, because many 16-bit utilities will not work with Windows 95, the company will not move to 32-bit applications until at least next June, he added [CW, Aug. 21].

One company on Microsoft's list may be there by mistake.

A spokeswoman for Siemens Corp. said that while the company has indeed signed a purchase agreement for Windows 95, "there is no immediate decision to implement it."

The current plan is to "wait for the next release," the spokeswoman said. But because Siemens has 30 different highly decentralized operating companies in the U.S., "you may have somebody out there that's said 'sure' [to early deployment]," she said. Additionally, "there is no such company as Siemens, Inc.," which is how the company appears on Microsoft's list, she added.

Also on the shelves

Beside the cavalcade of new applications from third-party developers shipping last week, Microsoft also announced immediate retail availability of Office 95 and Plus Pack, which features several advanced utilities and Microsoft's Internet Explorer

The launch marks the first time a significant number of new applications that use the system's features shipped simultaneously with the system. Indeed, applications that took specific advantage of Windows 3.0 and 3.1 lagged months behind both of those systems' release.

"This is the first operating system

where, well in advance of the product shipping, [independent software vendor] investment shifted over to developing for the new product instead of the old one," Gates said. Of course, Windows 95 was at least eight months late shipping, so some cynics might say the developers had extra

Regardless, because Office dominates the applications productivity suite category with more than 80% market share and the individual Microsoft ap-

plications dominate the major applications categories, Microsoft is well positioned to feed users' hunger for products to run under Windows 95.

Microsoft also officially opened the

Windows 95 trivia

- ▶ Number of new products at launch 300
- ► Size of advertising budget about \$200 million
- ▶ Number of new products at launch 300
- ▶ Number of retail outlets -20,000
- Number of beta testers -- 50,000
- Number of years worked on −4
- ▶ Number of OEMs bundling it in about 280
- Number of companies showing new products 125
- ▶ Number of Windows 95 preview participants 1 million
- ▶ Number of lines of code 11 million
- Number of diskettes 13
- ▶ Number of person-years to develop 293
- Number of months officially late About 8
- ▶ Number of cups of coffee consumed 2.3 million (this is Seattle, after all)

Source: Microsoft Corp.

doors to its The Microsoft Network online service Thursday.

Microsoft hypes Windows 95 around the world. See page 43.

Microsoft bullied show organizers

IBM exec's keynote on and off again

Microsoft Corp. appears to be using a variety of strong-arm tactics to keep everyone from computer retailers to help desk personnel to trade show organizers in line.

Two weeks ago, IBM accused Microsoft of threatening to pull its sponsorship of the Windows Solutions Conference & Exposition in September and rescind its permission to use the name "Windows" in the conference title if Lee Reiswig, IBM's top OS/2 executive, was allowed to deliver the show's final keynote speech.

IBM eventually bowed out of the show.

In an interview with *Computerworld* [CW, Aug. 21], Cameron Myhrvold, director of marketing at Microsoft's Developer Division, vehemently denied these charges.

Then last week in a follow-up report by the New York Times News Service, Myhrvold reported that he did in fact ask Softbank Exposition and Conference Co., the show's organizer, to cancel Reiswig's appearance. Myhrvold also said that just days later he changed his mind and decided that Reiswig could speak as planned.

Commenting on the report, Kira Sorenson, a spokesperson for Microsoft's Developer Division, said, "It's an amazingly complex issue, and right now we are not going to refute the *Times* article." — *Lisa Picarille*

Pirates, products trail Win 95

Microsoft Corp. wasn't the only vendor with news surrounding the Windows 95 launch last week.

Pirated copies of Windows 95 have already turned up in the Netherlands and Hong Kong. Also circulating in the land of tulips are counterfeit copies, according to a Microsoft official.

French newspapers reported the existence of some 50,000 pirated copies, a number Microsoft said sounded high. In April, illegal copies of an English beta version of Windows 95 were being sold in Moscow's Radio Rynok, an openair consumer goods flea market.

Microsoft held a meeting with the Business Software Alliance antipiracy group last Monday to devise a strategy for tackling this problem.

Novell, Inc. announced NetWare Client 32 for Windows 95, client software that will let users running Windows 95 access NetWare servers and use Novell's NetWare Directory Services (NDS). The new software will be offered free as part of a prerelease scheduled for next month.

The 32-bit client software will feature NetWare Application

Launcher, a utility that will let network managers create application objects in NDS trees. This is said to speed administration and simplify user access to networked applications.

The leading PC software vendors showed their Windows 95 logocompliant applications under tents at the circus-like launch. Among the largest software vendors showing 32-bit products was Adobe Systems, Inc. AutoDesk, Inc. demonstrated the benefits of 32-bit Windows 95 technology in its AutoCAD Release 13, including improved ease of use in opening

multiple sessions of object-orient ed drafting designs.

In the communications suite category, Delrina was showing CommSuite 95, three communications products including WinFax

Pro 7.0, Cyberjack 7.0 for Internet access and WinComm Pro 7.0. Perhaps the most interesting new Windows 95 feature was the computer telephony integration in WinFax 7.0, which enables users to manage voice message, faxes, and and pager messages in the

e-mail and pager messages in the 32-bit version.

IBM, one of the very last holdouts against signing a Windows 95 license agreement, finally caved in last week. IBM said it will bundle copies of Win 95 on its PCs, but not for another three weeks or so, which is the time it will take IBM to install the software on its PCs.

Compiled by CW staff.

Cobol programmers get help shifting to object orientation

For a copy of the sec-

ond edition of Object

Orientation, An Intro-

duction for Cobol Pro-

grammers, which costs

\$22.50, call Micro Fo-

cus Publishing in Palo

Alto, Calif., at (800)

551-5269. Object Co-

bol information is also

available through Mi-

cro Focus' home page

at http://www.

mfltd.co.uk/.

o matter how much you want to get started, there's a barrier to plunging into object-oriented systems. The existing applications on which your business depends are not object-orient-

ed, and neither are most, if any, of your programmers.

Nine times out of 10, those programs are Cobol — there's an estimated 80 billion lines of Cobol still in use today — and Cobol is an anathema to those in the know on object-oriented development. The Cobol programmer is trained to break a program into procedure and data divisions, while the object cognoscenti say the whole purpose of an object is to combine data with methods, or procedures.

So it's common to hear at symposiums that many of the world's 600,000 Cobol programmers can't make the transition to object-oriented development. These pronouncements stem from a sense of exclusivity and high priesthood on the part of the speakers. However, Raymond Obin, a developer at Micro Focus Ltd. in England, convincingly

shows there is no reason why object-oriented concepts can't be captured in languages such as Cobol as well as Smalltalk or C++.

In his book, Object Orientation, An Introduction for Cobol Programmers,

Obin illustrates that many object-oriented concepts can be expressed in Cobol 85 without any modifications. And he explains object Cobol in terms familiar to today's Cobol programmers.

Both Micro Focus and IBM have versions of object-oriented Cobol. IBM's is still in beta testing, but Micro Focus' has been available for OS/2 and Microsoft's Windows NT for more than a year. These products offer a direct bridge between legacy systems and future object systems, and many Cobol

programmers can help span the gap.
Of the two, IBM's object Cobol offers
the leanest version over Cobol 85, with
about nine object-oriented extensions,
according to Carrie Woerner, manager of
application development and technical
marketing at IBM's Santa Theresa Lab in
San Jose, Calif. No date has been an-

nounced yet for general availability.

Micro Focus offers a more extensive version in Visual Object Cobol, which runs on Windows NT and will be available in a Windows 95 version by Oct. 1.

Both Micro Focus' and IBM's object Co-bol are dynamic bind languages. This means changes can be made to the source code, and they will be automatically compiled into the production system in its next run.

Micro Focus' Visual Object Cobol supports single inheritance as does the Smalltalk language.

IBM's object Cobol supports both single and multiple inheritance like C++, Woerner says. Micro Focus development spokesman Keith Howard says Micro Focus will consider supporting multiple inheritance in the future.

While Micro Focus' version supports integration of Visual Basic custom controls and OLE objects, IBM's Cobol will set System Object Model (SOM) bindings for direct-to-SOM implementations. "We try to hide the SOM technology from the programmer," Woerner says. SOM is IBM's language-neutral model for handling messages between objects written in different languages and those running on different platforms.

Beyond the technical features of both systems, however, are more practical considerations. Cobol is not isolated as an object language. Object Cobol programs can inherit from an existing C++

These products

bridge between

legacy systems

systems, and

and future object

many Cobol pro-

help span the gap.

grammers can

Charles Babcock

offer a direct

class. Or existing, procedural Cobol transaction programs and databases can be recast as objects in a Cobol object system.

The much-criticized Cobol could continue to serve as a readable business language in an object-dominated future. Even if it does, however, there's still the question of how many

Cobol programmers will make the transition and adopt the mind-set needed to program in object Cobol.

"In our experience, 30% to 40% don't make the shift," says Patricia Gill, the new head of Hewlett-Packard's Object Oriented Solution Center in Palo Alto, Calif. But that means as many as 60% to 70% have the potential to complete the transition.

With the emerging object Cobols, these programmers represent a resource that will move legacy systems forward.

Babcock is Computerworld's technical editor. His Internet address is charles_babcock @cw.com.

Inside Lines

Opening up to Windows NT

Hewlett-Packard is gearing up to announce full Windows NT support under its OpenView network management platform in about two months, according to Scott R. Safe, HP's marketing programs manager for OpenVision products and services. "The desktop is a key focus for the OpenView program," Safe said last week. "The market needs an integrated set of applications for managing the NT desktop and server." OpenView currently manages Windows desktops and can manage NT in a primitive fashion through a Simple Network Management Protocol agent.

Legato targets NetWare on the low end

Legato Systems this week is expected to announce new low-end backup software for Novell NetWare servers. Almed at users with a single NetWare server and tape drive, the Legato Data Backup Utility will compete with Novell's SBACKUP and will be available next week. Pricing information was not available.

The one you love to hate

Microsoft may be trying to kiss up to the distributed computing crowd, but it didn't have many fans at the Open Software Foundation's developers conference in Boston last week. Atone session, the speaker asked how many people had managed to avoid using Windows. A handful of the roughly 200 folks in the room raised their hands and were greeted with applause from their Windows-experienced peers.

Climbing up the NDS tree

The Houston-based LAN Support Group earned praise among managers of Novell NetWare networks

for its ability to peek inside the bindery database on those servers. Now renamed BindView Development, the tool maker is preparing a version of its analysis and reporting software to help users manage the Net-Ware Directory Services (NDS) database and objects on the NDS tree with enterprisewide NetWare 4.x. BindView for NDS should be available by the end of next month, offering baseline reports to track changes and problems, server profiles and security audits.

Crunch time for Convex

The next couple of quarters should go a long way toward answering the question of whether struggling Convex Computer has a long-term future, according to Wim Roelandts, the head of computer operations at Convex partner/benefactor Hewlett-Packard. HP started reselling Convex's massively parallel systems early this year to help pull the company out of a sales slide but remains uncertain that enough business can be drummed up in time to keep Convex on its feet. "The jury's still out on that," Roelandts said at an HP conference in Boston last Friday, He declined to say what HP would do if Convex collapses.

We're not worthy

The upcoming shipment of Hitachi Data Systems' big-kahuna Skyline mainframes is apparently prompting IBM to whisper some not-so-nice things about MVS in customers' ears. The IBM folks are saying MVS may not be cut out to run on Skyline because it hasn't been optimized for the new machine's processors, which are twice as powerful as standard ES/9000s. Why would IBM tad-mouth its Mother of All Mainframe Operating Systems? Because the computer giant is more worried about losing customers to Skyline, an analyst said. HDS started testing the first Skyline this month and is expected to ship its first box in November.

Fast and twisted

Hub vendor NetWorth is expected to announce this week what analysts say will be the first hub that supports 100Base-T "fast" Ethernet over Category 3 twisted-pair wire. "Grand Junction Network, Intel Corp. and others have talked about this, but NetWorth could be the first to deliver," said one source briefed on the announcement. In other news, CrossComm plans to announce several new switches this week.

Expanded Notes

Lotus has been trying to expand the reach of Notes by letting it exchange data with other databases. But so far it has done it with third-party developer support. Now the company plans to provide products that help users on Notes clients read an Oracle database and vice versa. The development is apparently under way at Edge Research in Portsmouth, N.H., a supplier of application development tools that Lotus acquired last September. Lotus last week declined to comment on the work.

Microsoft's much-vaunted on-line launch event fell flat on its cyberface last week. The Microsoft Network, making its debut as a real commercial service, had an icon on its MSN Today page indicating that if you clicked on it, it would take you to the launch event happening on Microsoft's Internet home page. But clicking on it did absolutely nothing. Somebody tell America Online CEO Steve Case to calm down. Maybe he doesn't have that much to worry about! But if some news tip is worrying you, by all means give us a call on our 24-hour voice-mail tip line at (508) 820-8555 or our toll-free number at (800) 343-6474. News editor Maryfran Johnson can be reached by phone at (508) 820-8179 or via the Internet at mjohnson@cw.com.



AFTER HURRICANE ANDREW,
THE PRESIDENT SENT IN THE TROOPS.

employee and "whatever

it takes to get the job done" kind of guy.

WE SENT PETER NASCA.

The customer's old headquarters lay in ruins. Their new building was still under construction. And the roads were jammed with everything from refugees to roofers' trucks.

That was the situation facing PeopleSoft's Peter Nasca and his software implementation team when they landed in Florida on a stormy August morning, just days after Hurricane Andrew. Our customer, ProSource, was spinning off from its parent company, and needed to be up and running with PeopleSoft by December 31. Come hell or high water.

Despite the rubble, despite spotty electric service, despite trafficchoked highways, Peter and his team successfully implemented the software. He even flew back to Miami on Christmas Day to ensure the system would be up and running, smoothly and on time. The result: another satisfied customer for PeopleSoft.

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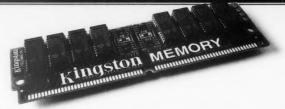
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